PARANORMAL UNDERGROUND®

Volume 11, Issue 5 May 2018

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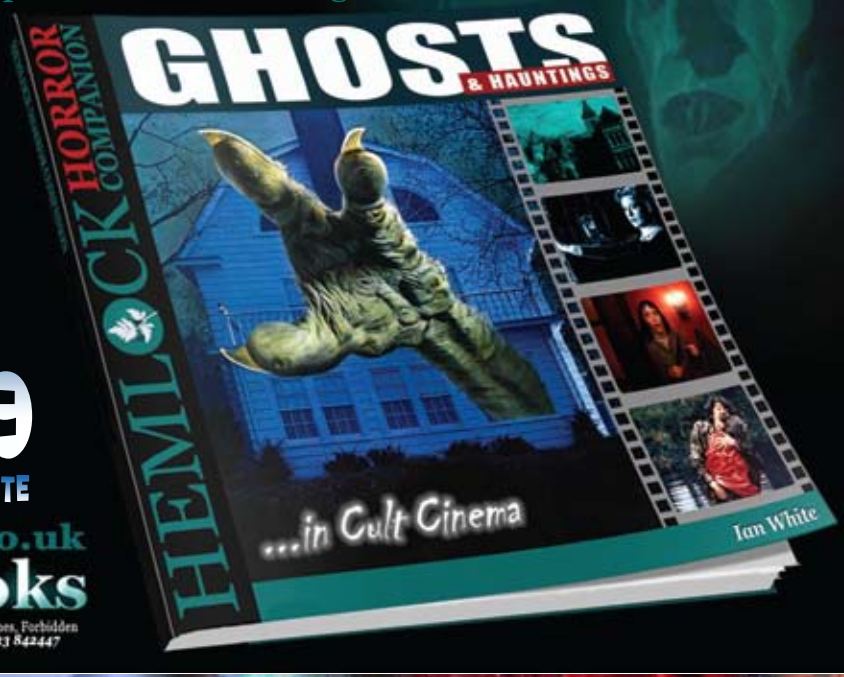

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As a special projects manager primarily involved in process engineering, and because documentation and analysis is paramount to serious investigations, Bob was drawn to take more than a passing interest and become actively involved in the study of different paranormal phenomena. He has a bachelor's degree in applied organizational management and a bachelor's in metaphysical science from the University of Metaphysics. Bob is also an ordained minister/metaphysical practitioner with the International Metaphysical Ministry.

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Willie has appeared on A&E's *Cursed: The Bell Witch* and CMTs *Most Shocking Ghosts*. He also hosted his own public access show in Louisville, Kentucky, for 12 years, called *Spiritual Gifts and Wonders*. In addition, he has his own group of sensitives, called Soul Warriors, who are based across the U.S.

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J.C. is author of the book *Ghost Physics*. He is a licensed physician and college professor but has always had an interest in the paranormal. He is a graduate of Temple University in Philadelphia and served as a chief resident at Cooper University Hospital during his residency. He currently teaches Advanced Anatomy and Physiology and Chemistry and Physics in both master's and doctorate programs.

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MORGAN LINEBERRY

Morgan is a graduate from the University of North Carolina in Greensboro where she obtained a bachelor's degree in English. She has a normal day job and is not affiliated with any paranormal groups, Websites, or businesses.

She loves to write and maintains a healthy fascination with all things paranormal thanks to experiences with the unexplained that she has experienced throughout her life. Morgan knows a little bit about a lot of paranormal topics from research she has conducted. She pledges to keep you up to date about what is going bump in the night via *Paranormal Underground's* monthly news column.

JENNIFER MAIMONE

Jennifer has been enthralled by the world of spirituality, paranormal, and mysticism since a young age and has published various stories and a novel based on them. She founded a store in 2016 that caters to both the light and dark in one's personality, called Dual Crossroads, located in South Pasadena, CA.

Jennifer is also the author of various paranormal and horror stories, such as *Demon's Prize*, *Cathy*, and *Thirst*. She is currently writing her next novel, *A Cursed Soul*, which is the sequel to *Demon's Prize*.

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Philip is a long-standing UFO researcher and author from the U.K. He was formerly the director of investigations for the British UFO Research Association and the MUFON representative for England. He is the founder of Flying Disk Press.

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Michelle is a *New York Times* and *USA Today* bestselling author writing in many fiction genres, including the Dragon-Shifter series *Dragon Lords* and *Captured by a Dragon-Shifter* and the mischievously magical *Warlocks MacGregor*. A skeptical believer, she has a fascination with anything paranormal.

Michelle loves to travel and try new things, whether it's a paranormal investigation of an old Vaudeville theater or climbing Mayan temples in Belize. She has a BGS in history/business with an English minor and a photography degree. She is the co-owner of www.TheRavenBooks.com.

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He is the author of 31 books to date, including, most recently, *Rock, Scissors, Paper*, a long poem sequence on the Clifford Olson serial murder case, and *A Gaggle of Geese* (haikai poetry from Alba Publishing in the U.K.).

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Krystle is a long-time paranormal enthusiast and professional writer with a bachelor's degree in print journalism. When she isn't composing pieces for her own paranormal blog, GetSpooked.net, she's recording her popular podcast, *All Day Paranormal*.

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Besides being a published author and a philosopher in physics/science with a master's in ancient alchemy, Maria Anna is also a medium with psychometric and remote viewing capabilities. She wrote *The NWO, Their Thoughts ... Your Life: It's Time to Wake Up, We Are the Illusion!*; *Our Mind in a Controlled Quantum Euclidean Space?: Natural and Unnatural Energies as a Global Weapon for Mind and Behavior Control*; and *The Source of Immortality: The Global Elite and Their Fountain of Youth*.

Over the past 20 years, Maria Anna has spoken to people with stories to tell in order to get to the details of strange and remarkable secrets and phenomena.

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Audrey works for Open Road Integrated Media, where she helps the content team pitch, write, and produce stories on the company's six content sites: The Lineup, The Portalist, Murder and Mayhem, The Archive, A Love So True, and Early Bird Books.

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Ian is an author, journalist, and screenwriter based in the UK. He is the author of *Witchcraft and Black Magic in British Cult Cinema*. He also occasionally performs stand-up comedy. Before writing for *Paranormal Underground*, his biggest claim to fame was being killed by a dragon in a thankfully long-forgotten TV show called *Dark Knight*.

Ian has been interested in the paranormal his entire life — one of his earliest memories is waking up to find a tall shadow wearing a top hat watching him through his bedroom window when his bedroom window was two stories off the ground. And, he has had several near-misses with evil entities, although now that he's happily married he can put most of those bad dating experiences behind him.

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A freelance writer, Chad is the publisher of *Paranormal Underground* magazine and co-producer of *Paranormal Underground Radio*. His interest in the paranormal led to the creation of www.ParanormalUnderground.net.

Chad has investigated with East Tennessee Paranormal Research Society and counts Waverly Hills Sanatorium, the Villisca Axe Murder House, Bobby Mackey's Music World, the Queen Mary, Queen Anne Hotel, Hotel Alex Johnson, and private residences among his investigations.

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Email editor@paranormalunderground.net with a detailed description of your dream, and we will interpret it for you and possibly publish it in an upcoming magazine. Submissions can be anonymous.

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A Hard Lesson Learned in Paranormal Investigation

So ... I've learned a lot since I wrote last month's "Publisher's Letter." I learned that when scheduling an investigation at a reportedly haunted location that sells access to its site, *proper* research is required, not just a *cursory assessment* of the property and what it offers.

I've also learned that not everyone in this world is trustworthy. (OK, I already knew this, but I was given another slap-in-the-face reminder about it.) While I believe most people are trustworthy, there are always those few out there waiting to take advantage of people and looking to make a buck at someone else's expense.

Chad Wilson, Publisher

... So, I promised you in last month's "Publisher's Letter" a full report on our investigation at Old South Pittsburg Hospital. Unfortunately, we did not get to investigate the site. And as the sordid details unfolded days before our scheduled investigation at the end of April, we were in for an unpleasant surprise.

Alas, it seems the owners of the hospital owed the IRS a substantial sum of money, reportedly $500,000 in back taxes. So, the IRS, as it is known to do when you owe them money for an extended period of time, seized the property for auction.

Of course, the person who took our money for the investigation did not even bother to send us an email or give us a phone call. They disappeared, right along with our down-payment money, which was required up-front to reserve the investigation date/time.

Our group and countless others were left feeling bamboozled, with deposits placed and no sign of ever getting them back. We actually got off easy; our group only lost $125. Other groups weren't as lucky. I read reports online of teams driving in from other states only to be told upon arriving for their investigations that they had to turn back. They weren't allowed in. One team had already bought airfare for their investigation.

After we learned that we would not be investigating the hospital, I started doing the research I should have done in the first place. I found out from reading online articles that the hospital had a horrible black mold problem and asbestos in the basement area, as well as reports of investigators getting sick immediately after leaving the site.

And upon further research, I found articles online about the IRS suing the hospital owners. These articles were available online months before we ever booked our investigation. Yes, I REPEAT, all this information was online before we booked our investigation. A bitter lesson learned. And I share this with you in the hopes that I save you from something like this happening to you in the future. Do a lot of research before investigating a haunted site. A lot of research.

Up until this "situation," we had been lucky: Every investigation we had been on had gone off without a hitch. But luck only lasts so long, right?

So, what will we be doing the next time we set up an investigation at a reportedly haunted location? A lot of research! ◆

June 1–4
Contact in the Desert
Renaissance Resort
Indian Wells, California
http://contactinthedesert.com/

June 15–17, 2018
Alien Con
Pasadena Convention Center
Pasadena, California
http://www.thealiencon.com/

June 16
Minerva Monster Day
Minerva High School
Minverva, Ohio
http://minervamonsterday.com/

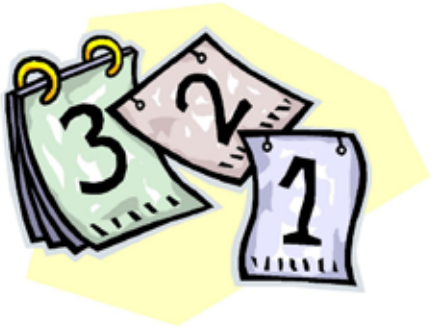
June 22–23
Haunted America Conference
Best Western
Alton, Illinois
https://www.ghostconference.net

June 22–24
Alien Cosmic Expo
Toronto, Ontario
https://aliencosmicexpo.com/

June 23
Awakening UFO & Conscious Life Expo
Manchester, UK
http://awakeningufo.com/

June 24
Dulce Base UFO Conference
13603 US-64
Dulce, New Mexico
https://www.newmexico.org/event/2018-dulce-base-ufo-conference/5230/

June 30–July 1
ECBRO Virginia Bigfoot Conference 2018
Augusta Expo
Fishersville, Virginia
https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ecbro-1st-annual-virginia-bigfoot-conference-2018-tickets-31004634697



July 13-15
Hawaii Paranormal Convention
Sheraton Princess Ka'iulani
Honolulu, Hawaii
https://www.hawaiiparacon.com/

July 21
2nd Annual Moundsville Paracon
West Virginia State Penitentiary
Moundsville, West Virginia
moundsvilleparacon.com/

July 27–28
MUFON Symposium
Crowne Plaza Hotel
Philadelphia – Cherry Hill
http://mufonpa.com/wp1/?page_id=1872

August 3–5
Kansas City Paracon
Ivanhoe Masonic Lodge
Kansas City, Missouri
www.kansascityparacon.net/

August 3–5
Central PA-ranormal Convention
The Pajama Factory
Williamsport, Pennsylvania
http://centralparacon.weebly.com/

August 4
Maryland Paranormal Conference
Bowie Elks Lodge No 2309
Gambrills, Maryland
https://www.eventbrite.com/e/maryland-paranormal-conference-tickets-41871137700

E-mail your paranormal event to editor@paranormalunderground.net. ◆

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Raised by Wolves, Possessed Police Encounter, Ghost Officer, and Nessie Spotted

By Morgan Lineberry

Breaking News: People Suck!

At least, this is the stance of a man who was raised by wolves and "rescued" by humans when he was 19 years old, according to Paul Seaburn of MysteriousUniverse.org.

Marcos Rodriguez Pantoja was a feral child who spent 12 years being raised by wolves after a childhood of abuse and neglect. Rodriguez fell asleep in a cave after playing with wolf pups, then awoke to the mother feeding them. When she indicated that he too should eat, Pantoja accepted the raw meat. He explains that the wolf "put her tongue out and started to lick me. After that, I was one of the family."

While feral children are something that most people in the paranormal community have heard of, Pantoja's reaction to being rescued is different, although not surprising. After his rescue, "[he] was identified by his father and then forced to live as a human again, beginning with religion (a seminarian was one of his first caretakers) and the military." He was unhappy with this decision about how his life should go, questioning why he was not sent to school, but instead taught to "shoot and kill people."

How ironic it is that we as a culture still stigmatize wolves as monsters but find militant training more important than basic education. If that isn't paranormal, I don't know what is. This seems to prove that humans may very well be the oddest creatures on this or any other planet.

Paranormal Police Encounter

According to Brent Swancer at MysteriousUniverse.org, cops have more than just the normal troublesome people to deal with from time to time. Instead police officers such as this one, who remained anonymous, have to deal with paranormal and potentially demonic forces.

The officer described an encounter with a young woman whom he found "just standing in the middle of the road in a trance or daze." The officer stopped and asked if she needed help, but she did not respond. Then

things got odd: The girl began to spin. "Then she loses her balance and falls, whacking her head on the side of the police car!" The office called 911, even though she appeared unfazed by the impact.

At this point, the girl is laying against the car, looking up at the sky. Her face begins turning red and her eyes

start to water. The officer realizes "she is trying to damage her retinas by forcing herself to look directly at the sun," and immediately shields her eyes. An ambulance arrives, and together they manage to get the girl (who is now suddenly unable to walk) into a wheelchair. She then strikes an odd "I'm a little teapot pose" and maintains it.

Even later when the officer called the hospital, he was informed that she was STILL in the pose! You can suggest a mental illness of trauma of some kind if you like, but I side with the officer who suggested that the girl may need "an exorcist rather than a psychiatrist or doctor."

This makes me glad I am not a police officer because there is no amount of training that can prepare someone for such a creepy encounter.

Air Force Specter Caught on Film

Paranormal investigator Kyle Thompson "was shocked to see" what appeared to be the ghost of an Air Force officer at an Air Force base. While he suspected spirit activity at the base, Thompson only noticed the ghost "when he replayed video footage from his visit to the empty RAF Church Fenton base near Tadcaster, North Yorkshire," explained Bethany Gleave of mirror.co.uk.

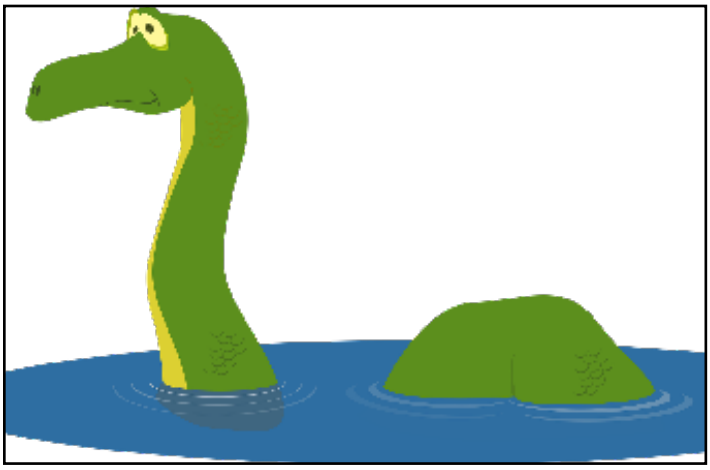
The video was filmed in a bar at the base "where WW2 officers used to gather to drink and relax." Thompson explained that upon entering the room, his team could hear voices and one member of the team stated that he "felt funny," so they decided to film the room in hopes of capturing anything paranormal. They certainly got lucky!

In the video, the spirit "can be seen rising from the floor before 'walking' out of the room, followed by what Kyle claims are 'balls of energy.'" When he was alive, the spirit looks to have been a "tall, imposing figure with a large beard."

It makes me wonder if his apparition is the result of strong residual energy from time spent with good friends and brothers, or if this officer was simply too dedicated to leave the base when it was his time to go. Either way, there is little doubt that the energy at the base is the result of camaraderie that can only be formed in times of combat.

Nessie Makes a Comeback

The Air Force officer is not the only person — or entity — to make an appearance after a long span of time. I, for one, have not heard about anyone seeing the Loch Ness Monster for a while. But that recently changed, according to Coast to Coast AM.



"An Idaho man vacationing in Scotland was lucky enough to have the quintessential tourist experience in the country when he spotted the Loch Ness Monster!" The tourist, Dakota Frandsen, spotted the cryptid near Urquhart Castle, which was located on the shore of Loch Ness. The man was lucky enough to get a good look but not lucky enough to snap a photo, unfortunately.

Frandsen observed the creature from a distance as it swam through the water and noted that it had "skin akin to that of a hippopotamus." Whatever this creature was, it was obviously a large living creature (and not an inanimate object, such as a log), as it moved in response to a speedboat that passed it.

As much as I wish there was some photographic evidence of this sighting, I am glad that there is still something swimming through Loch Ness for people to see. Next time anyone visits the Loch, I hope they have their camera at the ready! ◆

Hail Bop Express

By Richard Stevenson

I'm hearin' voices again
tellin' me to kill.
Gotta gather souls
for the Hail Bop Express.

I'm west of anything contentious —
nature or nurture,
even intelligence.
On a mission, Grissom.

Gotta get to incandescence
aboard the Hail Bop Express.
Need a crew with strong backs
and weak minds to assist.

Gonna shed this skin.
Leave my bones in a box
or burn 'em, as you please.
I'm tired of getting down on my knees.

I'm more circumspect. Ain't
gonna genuflect, genuflect
before some abstract booger
in my noodle, no more.

I'm late already. Gotta blow.
Kool Aid's ready. Don't need to
diet no more; gonna spend
this tawdry flesh all in one go.

Next time you watch the Perseids,
think of me streakin' across the sky,
a single short line on the blackboard
of heaven. Really an erasure.

Not my best thought that day, maybe.
Just a stubbed out cigarette.
A bad habit smouldering in an ash tray,
ground out against the glass sky.

For more poetry from Richard Stevenson, see 'Rock, Scissors, Paper,' a long poem sequence on the Clifford Olson serial murder case, and A Gaggle of Geese, haikai poetry from Alba Publishing in the U.K.

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'The Quickening'

Playing June 8–July 1 in Baltimore

By Cheryl Knight

Mysterious happenings, a Civil War ghost, and a family in turmoil. These themes feature prominently in the play *The Quickening*, which uses a unique storytelling approach to engage and invoke fear in the audience.

Playing at the Fells Point Corner Theatre from June 8–July 1 in Baltimore, Maryland, *The Quickening* stars Amanda Spellman (*Beth*), Debbie Bennett (*Philomena*), Marianne Gazzola Angelella (*Rosemary*), and David Shoemaker (*Matt*).

The Quickening's playwright, Mark Scharf, and director, Ann Turiano, recently spoke with *Paranormal Underground* about the play and its paranormal themes.

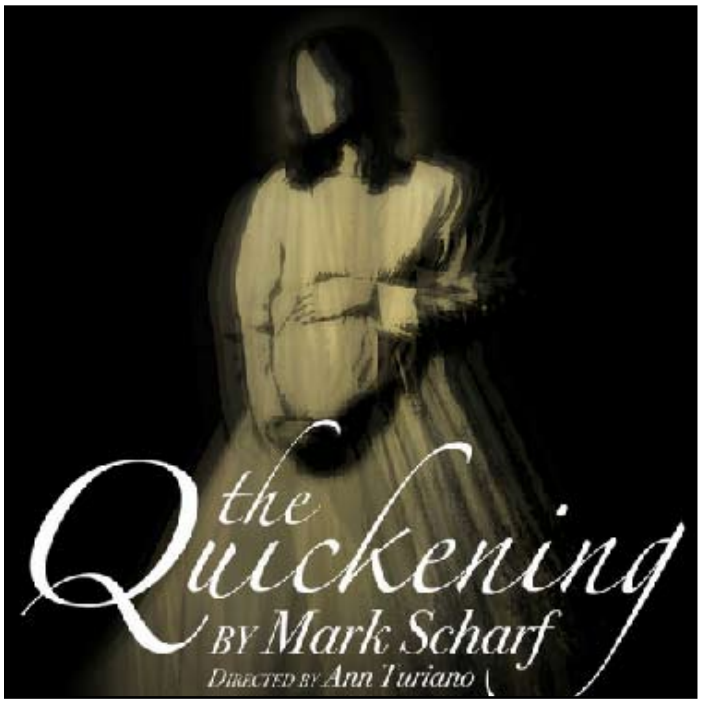
* * * * *

Q: Where did the concept of *The Quickening* come from?

Mark: *The Quickening* is a result of the confluence of many impulses, experiences, and I guess you could say tastes. When I was 12 years old, my parents let me stay up to watch a movie while the rest of my family went to bed. Alone in a darkened room, I watched *The Haunting of Hill House*, made in 1963 and based on Shirley Jackson's 1959 novel. It scared the hell out of me, earning a permanent place in my heart and head. And it did so by suggestion — by relying on my reactions and thoughts to create fear.

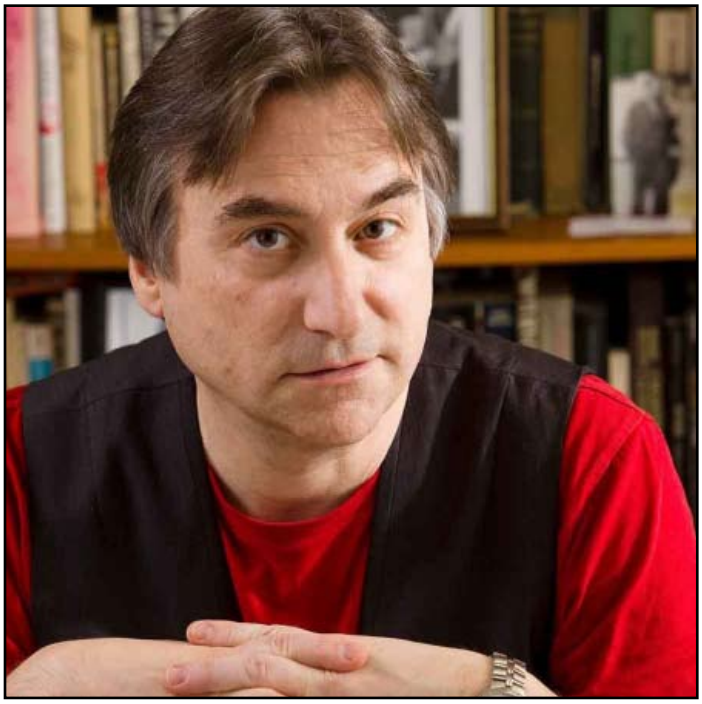
You never saw a creature or apparition; you saw empty rooms and stairs and the reactions of people to sounds. You saw writing that had appeared during the night on a wall. You heard banging on a door echo like timpani on steroids and watched as a door knob ever so gently turned, but the door never opened.

The technique and the effect stuck with me, and I have always wondered if I could write a play — a ghost story for the stage — that employed the same approach to engage and frighten. It was an idea that kept appearing in my notebooks, but one that always ended up taking a back seat to a different play. I think now it hung around until I was ready to tackle it.



Q: How did the play begin to take shape?

Mark: There have been seven drafts by my count on the way to this production. I began *The Quickening* in earnest in 2013 and completed it in 2014. I was excited enough about the first draft to put together an in-house reading of it — in our house. A notable thing about that



Pictured above are *The Quickening's* director, Ann Turiano (at left), and playwright, Mark Scharf (at right).

reading was the reaction to the dog in the play. Buy me a drink sometime and ask me about that.

During the summer of 2014, a new draft received a staged reading at the Sewanee Writers' Conference, which I attended as a Participating Playwright. In spring of 2015, the play won for me a Maryland State Arts Council Individual Artist Award in Playwriting, which included a staged reading during the 2015 Baltimore Book Fair. Later that year, the play was accepted by the Comparative Drama Conference and given a staged reading during their 2015 Conference.

In the fall of 2015, the play appeared as a staged reading presented by Dramatists Guild Baltimore Footlights Series at the Spotlighters Theatre in Baltimore. It was there that Anthony Hinkle and Steven Shriner from The Collaborative Theatre Company heard the play and expressed an interest. In 2016, the play was a Finalist in the 5th Annual What If? Playwrights' Festival and Competition in Charleston, South Carolina, where it received a staged reading, and was a Semi-Finalist in the 2016 Beverly Hills Theatre Guild Julie Harris Playwright Award Competition.

I also learned that *The Quickening* had been selected to close FPTC's 2017–18 season as a co-production with TCT directed by Ann Turiano.

Q: The play's central story features a family who encounters a Civil War ghost. Why does paranormal subject matter resonate with so many people?

Mark: I think that resonance has to do with a fear of mortality and the feeling that death can't just be the end. I think the combination of fear and hope is powerful in and of itself — and either breeds and/or is confirmed by stories of the paranormal.

Q: The Quickening features three strong female characters "trying to find where science and folklore/religion meet." How does the central interaction unfold between these characters?

Ann: Beth, our main character, is pregnant for the first time and easing into her new life in Richmond. We've had some wonderful discussions in rehearsal about what it means to be "the vessel" for new life and how every mother herself becomes a sort of liminal space, a portal between two worlds. Whether you're spiritual or not, the whole notion is kind of mind blowing.

The pregnancy itself plays a huge role in how and why the events of the play unfold. I'd say that Beth is about as religious as most Millennials — which is to say she isn't — but her mother Rosemary believes deeply in the occult. Of course, everyone takes on aspects of belief from their upbringing, and it's interesting to see where these echo and begin to resonate for Beth. Add Beth's neighbor, Phil, a math teacher and skeptic, to the mix, and suddenly we're watching three strong women approaching a crisis from three very different (but all completely sympathetic) angles.

Q: What other themes are central to *The Quickening's* storyline?

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Mark: Life/death/the permanence of death and how these questions and concerns have been addressed both by religion and science. The search for that knowledge.

Ann: All of these characters are reaching out for contact. They need each other, and they need help. Mark has been exploring family dynamics in his writing for years, and his on-stage relationships feel very relatable to me. The idea of history — whether for a family, a place, or a couple — looms large here.

> "I hope they are thoroughly creeped out. I hope they consider their own views about the other side."

Q: What is the main message of this play?

Ann: The play functions as a big "what-if" question. What if there really is life after death? What would that mean to us on a personal level? It's a question that can be far too abstract to consider fully. This script grounds it in the familiar. It could all be happening in your kitchen.

Q: How do you think audiences will react after seeing *The Quickening*?

Mark: I hope it will start conversations and personal searching: people sharing their own experiences and researching the possible religious and scientific answers to these questions of eternity.

Ann: I have three goals for our viewers: I hope they are thoroughly creeped out, I hope they consider their own views about the other side, and I hope they are pleasantly surprised to discover that Baltimore is home to some wonderfully talented artists.

Q: The play runs from June 8 through July 1 in Baltimore. Where will it go after that?

Mark: It will go "out there" for hoped-for consideration by other theatres and theatre artists, agents, producers etc. I am hopeful that this play has "legs" and appeal. I have been heartened by a second production at the Acadiana Repertory Theatre in Louisiana and how their thoughts and reactions to the play have mirrored in so many ways what I've experienced in Baltimore.

* * * * *

To find out more about "The Quickening," visit https://www.thequickeningplay.com/. ◆

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'It Happened in Key West'

Playing July 4–August 18 in London

By Cheryl Knight

The musical comedy *It Happened in Key West* tells the story of Carl Tanzler, a 1930's X-ray technician who meets Elena, the woman of his dreams. But after Elena dies tragically, a devastated Tanzler hears Elena's spirit calling to him to "resurrect" her. He complies, removing Elena's body from her grave and then living with her mummified remains in his home for seven years.

It Happened in Key West is set to run at London's Charing Cross Theatre from July 4–August 18. Associate Producer Autumn Karen recently spoke with *Paranormal Underground* about the play, the bizarre true story it's based on, and how love has no bounds.

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Q: The storyline of *It Happened in Key West* is quite unusual. What makes this real-life 1930's tale so compelling?

Autumn Karen: It's Carl himself as a mirror for the audience that makes the story so compelling. He's a complex man who's story calls us to look back at the wide variety of emotions that we experience during times of struggle and loss. Nearly a hundred years after these events in a small village that's far removed from modern society, we can each see our reflection in the pain and desperation that he feels.

Q: What led the creative team to turn this macabre story into a musical production?

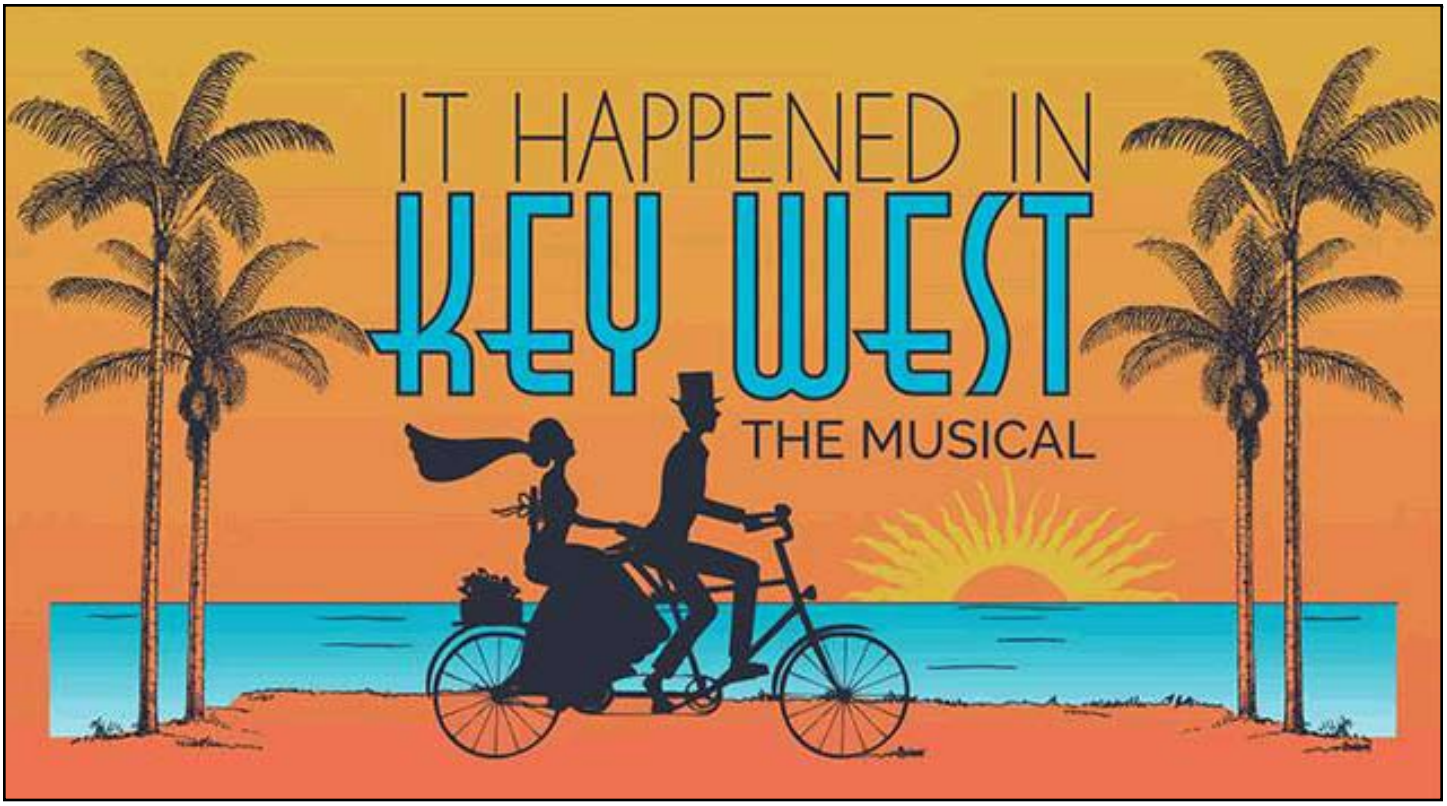
Autumn Karen: The creative force who ignited the development of *It Happened in Key West* is our Lead Producer, Jeremiah James, who also coauthored the book (AKA the narrative) of the show. A highly successful recording

artist and musical theatre performer, he has a passion for both storytelling, as well as a fascination with the unusual.

Eight years ago he happened upon a late-night documentary telling Carl's and Elena's story. Jeremiah was immediately struck with the realization that the heart of this true event was a love story. A sensational and strange love story, but a love story nonetheless. He sought out visionary Broadway composer and lyricist Jill Santoriello to help bring Carl's tale to the stage, and later writer Jason Huza to further bring the story to life. It's the kind of story that is so extraordinary, so bizarre, that it's perfect for the musical comedy genre.

Q: What were the production team's primary creative goals when developing this musical?

Autumn Karen: The vision for the show from the be-



ginning sought to take a long-lens view of the macabre and fantastical aspects of Carl's story while zeroing in on the emotional realities that drove him to commit what many others considered to be atrocities. This show is driven from Carl's perspective. Creatively, we want to immerse in the world that he created for Elena while keeping one foot in the real events that swirled around them.

Q: It's been reported that Tanzler believed Hoyo's spirit would visit him and talk to him. Do you believe this could be true? Or was Tanzler's reported paranormal experiences with his lost love a result of his obsession and grief?

Autumn Karen: Who are we to say that she wasn't there? Who is anyone to judge? It's easy to pass someone off as nuts, to mark them as nothing more than crazy. That's because we can't reconcile their story. Of course it's possible that Elena's essence existed there for Carl after her last labored breath.

When someone dies, the people who they leave behind want to know that their spirit lives on — that's almost universal. In Carl Tanzler's case, the years that he spent with Elena after she died were content, happy. Were his actions fueled by his grief? Absolutely. Doesn't that negate his experience? Absolutely not.

Q: What is the main message in Carl Tanzler's story?

Autumn Karen: Tolerance, compassion, and undying love are the main messages of this story. Carl does what he thinks best for this woman that he loves, whether we on the outside believe in it or not. To the depths of his humanity, Carl believes that this is what she wanted, and he gave her the best that he could give her in both life and in death. The lengths that he goes to may be unusual in a material sense, but they are always driven by love.

Q: How do you think audiences will react after seeing the musical?

Autumn Karen: *It Happened in Key West* is a romantic comedy, with music that carries theatergoers away to another time and a heartfelt romance. Our hope is that audiences will walk out of the theatre both laughing heartily and appreciating their loved ones deeply.

Q: The musical is set to run at London's Charing Cross Theatre from July 4–August 18. Where will it go after that?

Autumn Karen: We're working to bring *It Happened in Key West* to the United States once we're finished in London. The West End is only the beginning for Carl's story!

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*To find out more about "*It Happened in Key West*," visit https://www.keywestmusical.com/.* ◆

Walnut Hill College's *Paranormal Activity Club*

By Cheryl Knight

In the late summer of 2016, the freshmen at Walnut Hill College in University City, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, proposed two clubs: a Beach Club and a Paranormal Activity Club. An email soon went out to staff to see if anybody was interested in facilitating one of the two clubs.

"For me, the latter was a no-brainer," said Vincent Casciato, student life administrator at the college. "I love the horror genre, and the possibilities for events — especially with Halloween around the corner — were endless. When we held an interest meeting, the students were very enthusiastic, and some of them have had brushes with paranormal experiences."

Vincent facilitates the club and acts as a liaison between the students and the Office of Student Life. He recently spoke with *Paranormal Underground* about the Paranormal Activity Club, its mission, club activities, and the types of locations investigated by the students.

* * * * *

Q: How many members do you currently have? How many students attend your events?

Vincent: Our core group consists of about 12 members, though we have around 35 members total. By the numbers, depending on the type of event, we average between 12 to 22 attendees, which is very high compared to most clubs. Even for meetings, it's not unusual for attendance to be around 10 to 15. So far this year, 80 students have attended at least one meeting or event, which is 20% of our student body. I'm very proud of all of this.

Q: What are the club's mission and goals?

Vincent: To search for paranormal activity during our investigations, share stories about our experiences (I myself haven't had any, but some students have), and spread awareness about such activity.

Pictured above are members of the Walnut Hill College Paranormal Activity Club at its most popular event location, Mt. Moriah Cemetery.

Q: How often does the club meet? Where do you meet? And what do you do at meetings?

Vincent: We meet every Monday evening on campus, and our meetings are mostly a discussion of the events we're planning. Sometimes we'll play *Ghost Adventures*, *The X-Files*, or something related on the TV.

Q: What kind of events do you hold?

Vincent: At least once per term, we conduct an investigation. I'll elaborate under the next question you asked. Outside of this, we have a private guided ghost tour of Olde City in the fall, we visit Eastern State Penitentiary, have a s'mores and ghost stories event on campus, tarot

Members of the club pose for a picture at Bolton Mansion. Vincent Casciato (pictured at right, back row) is a student life administrator at the college and club facilitator.

card readings, craft events for things like voodoo dolls (unblessed) and monster plushies, movie nights on the big screen in the parking lot, and much more.

We recently took the students to the Mütter Museum, which is quite popular. We also recently celebrated Chinese New Year by spreading literature about Chinese ghosts and folklore.

Q: Does the club go on actual paranormal investigations? And if so, tell me about how you investigate and the locations where you have investigated.

Vincent: We've been to Bolton Mansion in Levittown, in which professional paranormal investigators gave us a tour of this historic property that has seen many paranormal incidents. They gave us an equipment demo, answered questions by the students, and we even tried to summon ghosts in the basement (it was pitch dark!). The students loved everything about the event, and we're trying to go back there and to another haunted mansion in the area.

But every term we host our biggest event of all, and we're very proud of it. We drive to Mt. Moriah Cemetery, which is divided between Philadelphia and Yeadon, and have a nighttime investigation. This abandoned cemetery is rich with history and a touch of the paranormal. Some strange things have happened to us there. Once, our electronic equipment malfunctioned at the same time. A student's camera wouldn't photograph correctly, and we tried all of these ways to fix it for her. Then a ghost hunting app revealed the word "restored." I told the student to now try taking a photo, and the camera was restored.

That same night, we were all checking out a grave, and the app said "hands." We looked up at the creepy statue above the grave and saw it had no hands. Then the app said a student's name and told us to get out. It really spooked us. We've had other strange things happen too.

A lot of us get really negative vibes around the gravestones of one particular family that died in the 1800s, and we think something bad may have happened that the public didn't know about. One child died as a toddler, and there was activity that bounced from app to app that suggested he wanted to play a game with us. We abso-

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Pictured above are club members at a rare daytime investigation at Mt. Moriah Cemetery.

lutely love going to Mt. Moriah. Aside from the apps, we bring a ghost box and sometimes a Ouija board.

Q: Tell us about your membership's diversity.

Vincent: While we reach out to and have all different demographics, most of our regular members are female freshmen. We're grateful to have a little bit of everybody, though.

Q: How can students apply to be in the club?

Vincent: Students can be in the club by joining our Schoology Webpage, which gives updates and notifies the student body about events. More directly, students join by simply attending meetings and events. It's really easy and welcoming.

Q: What does the club have planned for the future?

Vincent: Before we break for summer, we're trying to investigate at two haunted mansions and make a return trip to Mt. Moriah Cemetery. We're also going to visit a wooded area with some tents and flashlights to tell ghost stories. While this is not an overnight trip, the intention is for the event to feel like a camping experience. The students absolutely love the idea — their eyes lit up when we proposed it!

So we're going to do that, plus a few other things that are mostly just for fun — a craft evening where we'll make monster plushies and an event related to the *Goosebumps* horror books. I'm proud to say that our club does a lot of programming.

Q: How do you get word out about the Club and its events?

Vincent: We have rigorous advertising to spread the word about our club, and the idea is for the visual content to be attractive and catchy. Also, I tell the students how important it is to have good advertising and strong word-of-mouth.

Q: What else would you like to tell us about the Club?

Vincent: The heart of the club is the students. I do a lot of event planning but try to take a backseat approach so that the students are able to shine through their leadership and ideas.

The density of our programming, our advertising, and, most of all, the enthusiasm and dedication of our great members are the ingredients that make our club so successful.◆

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Spirit, Demon, or Poltergeist?
INSIDE THE BOTHELL HELL HOUSE

By Cheryl Knight

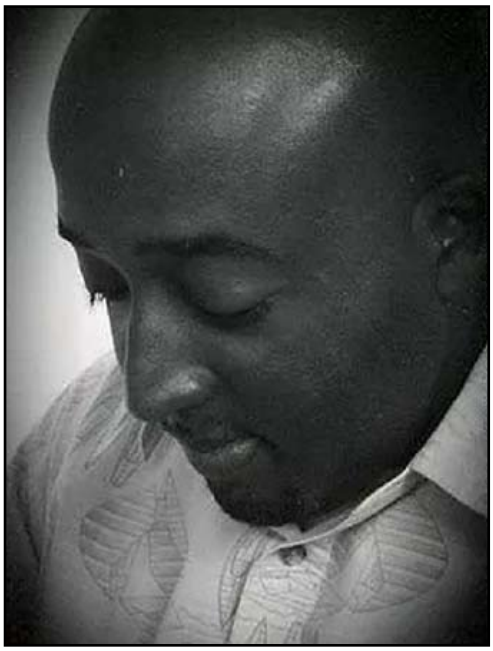
In 2012, Keith Linder and his girlfriend, Tina, moved into a house in Bothell, Washington, within a suburb of Seattle. But immediately after moving into the home, unusual things began to happen. The couple heard disembodied voices and footsteps, objects levitated on their own, and unexplainable fires broke out in the home.

The couple turned to the church for help. And after much convincing, the church performed an exorcism of the home. Unfortunately, the exorcism didn't help. Later, Keith was introduced to Father Roy, who also conducted an exorcism. Again, the religious practice did not halt the paranormal activity.

The paranormal phenomena reported at Keith's home even drew the attention of the TV show *Ghost Adventures*, which investigated the location, and a documentary crew, which spent weeks investigating in the home. After the *Ghost Adventures'* team failed to turn up any evidence, Keith was accused of hoaxing and being an attention-seeker.

Unfortunately, as their paranormal encounters became more intense and their reputation in the paranormal community suffered, Keith and Tina's relationship came to an abrupt end. The pressure had become too much for Tina. It was at this point when Keith was determined to prove the activity was real.

After an exhaustive search, Keith found Steve Mera and Don Philips in the U.K. Both had been involved in paranormal research for many years, and following months of Skype meetings and question-and-answer sessions, they agreed to take Keith's case. The duo flew to Seattle and investigated the Bothell house. And after they uncovered compelling evidence, Keith began to feel vindicated.



Keith Linder spent four years living in a home plagued with paranormal activity, including objects levitating, inexplicable fires starting, and disembodied voices and footsteps, among other unexplainable activity.

Based on their investigation and evidence collected, Mera and Philips decided to turn their investigation into a documentary. Titled *Demons in Seattle Uncovered*, the documentary is set for release this summer.

Keith also recently published a book about his experiences at the house. Titled *The Bothell Hell House: Poltergeist of Washington State*, the book documents in detail Keith's paranormal experience inside the house, as well as why they might have been occurring.

Keith recently spoke with *Paranormal Underground* about his experiences, the disappointing *Ghost Adventures* investigation, the documentary, and his new book.

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Q: Tell us a little about yourself (where you grew up, your profession, hobbies, etc.).

Keith: I'm originally from Austin, Texas. I moved to the Pacific Northwest in 2005 to pursue a career in IT. It was a dream of mine to always live near mountains and open water. Seattle seemed to have all of that, so I moved here

Living in the Bothell house what like "living in Hell," according to Keith Linder, who lived in the house with his girlfriend, Tina. The couple experienced dramatic paranormal activity. The cause of the phenomena remains a mystery to this day.

the first chance I got. I'm a movie buff. I love sci-fi movies, sports, outdoor sports, cooking, and traveling through wine country.

Q: Did you believe in the paranormal before you first experienced it in your home in 2012?

Keith: There were certain things I believed about the paranormal and certain things I had questions about. I would say I was 50/50. I, like everyone else, love a good ghost story every now and then. But that's about it. That's the only attention I gave to the paranormal, until now.

Q: What led you to rent the Bothell house?

Keith: I had successfully acquired a management position at a Fortune 50 healthcare company. It was a position of a lifetime. A dream come true sort of. I had gotten this new job. My girlfriend, Tina, and I had been together for two years, so the timing seemed perfect. I thought let's get this house. Let's move in together.

Q: You started experiencing paranormal activity the first day you moved into the house. Describe the activity you and Tina experienced early on in the house.

Keith: Actually, we started experiencing activity the day we picked up the keys to the house. The homeowner had not too long left the house when all of a sudden we heard a "cough." It sounded like it came from a child. It came from upstairs. It caught Tina off guard, and it caught me off-guard. But we shrugged it off and rightfully so. It had to have come from outside?

Fast forward a few weeks. We're now living in the home, and it's weird. Items we both owned went missing. I'm talking about car keys, Tina's jewelry, kitchen silverware, and other items. A few weeks later, we were watching TV together and all of sudden Tina's plant rises off the floor and does a 360-degree turn. It literally shoots up a few inches, spins, and falls back to the ground. Right in front of us.

Q: Describe how the paranormal occurrences increased after that.

Keith: That's a good question. For reasons I'm still trying to understand, the activity seemed to spike — and by spike I mean got horribly worse — the minute we started doing things that we hoped would end the activity. The gloves really came off when we began smudging, when we began having the house blessed, and when we began inserting cameras.

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Keith encountered frightening paranormal activity in his home. *Bibles* burned without explanation, and the kitchen cabinets would open on their own.

We were told to erect cameras in the house with the hopes of capturing evidence. That's the only way local paranormal teams would help us. To them what we were reporting was just too good to be true. Capture some objects flying on video. Send us a video of the cabinet doors opening. Of the door slams. Of the loud bangs. So I tried, unsuccessfully of course. So the activity got worse and worse based on that and a few other things.

Q: Tell us about some of the most shocking paranormal encounters you had in the house.

Keith: In my book, I talk about an event that to this day still troubles me. It was the day the poster in my office caught fire. Tina had just left for work. I'm taking a shower when all of a sudden the fire alarms in the house go off. This is not good. (The first *Bible* had caught fire just a few days before — setting off its own series of alarms.)

So I hear the fire alarms go off, so I know something is up. I dart out of my bedroom and onto the landing area (upstairs hallway). Something runs past me, and I don't mean in physical form. No, I mean in force form. It was invisible, but it had force. It had density.

We've all changed a car tire on side of the highway, and in doing so experienced that 18-wheeler passing by. That force. That wind shear. That gust of wind you feel. It almost knocks you to the ground or almost sucks you into the traffic. That's what I felt when I walked through my bedroom door and onto the landing area. Then came the thunderous footsteps. This force was darting downstairs.

I'm hearing and feeling this when all of a sudden the front door opens wide and then slams shut. There's no one in the doorway. The front door just opens on its own and slams shut. I'm not 100% sure what's going on. I'm running on instinct now. So I dart downstairs, thinking I'm chasing an intruder.

I get to the front door and try to open it (hoping to catch a glimpse of an intruder leaving my house). The front door won't open. And when I mean it won't open. I mean it doesn't budge. It couldn't have been more than two seconds as when it was last opened. I tried a few times, and I failed. I knew right then and there, the house was not being attacked. I was.

I ran back upstairs knowing I had a fire to contend with. Smoke had filled up the upstairs area, and the fire alarms were screaming. I went into my office and, sure enough, my poster was on fire. Flames were dancing on it. The poster was nearly half burnt and was doing considerable damage to the wall and desk below. I threw my towel on it to put the fire out and darted back downstairs.

I got to the front door and tried to open it. It still wouldn't open. The fire alarms were still going off, so I began thinking there must be a fire elsewhere. A fire I didn't know about. For all I knew the poster could have caught fire again. I mean that's happened before. Tina and I have put out fires before only to watch the object that's burning start up again. Right in front of our eyes. It's as if we were battling something we couldn't see.

Long story short, I called the fire department. They got to my house in three minutes flat and were dumbfounded. I called Tina — who had not yet got to the highway. I mean all of this went down within four minutes of her leaving. Talk about a mess. It doesn't embarrass me to say I was shaking like a leaf. I was in tears. Tina

ran into the house and started throwing blankets and sheets over my trembling body while the fire department was running upstairs.

We've had multiple shocking moments. There's a chapter in my book called "The Gray Lady." Seeing her was shocking. Seeing the white apparition was shocking. Bar stools flying across the kitchen or the living room was shocking. One of the most shocking moments Tina and I witnessed together, or with our friends, I should say, was the night we had the housewarming party. A plant went flying across the room. Our friends saw it.

I've carefully documented more than 1,100 shocking moments in my book. The Katy Perry weekend is without a doubt one of the most shocking weekends Tina and I have ever experienced while living in the house. It's called Katy Perry for a reason.

A poster in Keith's home office ignited into flames without explanation.

Q: What about the scariest encounters?

Keith: Hmm, that's a hard question to answer. There's been so many. The encounter I had in the landing area — the morning of the poster catching fire. I will say this and own it to my grave: We, and by we I mean us humans, are not at the top of the food chain when it comes to spiritual beings or matters. My gut instincts tell me whatever it was that ran past me could have snapped my neck like a twig if it was so inclined. Its mission was to set the poster on fire. Do that and get the heck out. We missed each other by a few inches.

I have nightmares sometimes imagining what would have happened had I stepped onto that landing a second sooner. That incident and the bed indentations, like a cat approaching or sheets being yanked down your ankles (while sleeping), are my scariest encounters.

Q: You had two exorcisms of your home. Tell us about the process. And did either exorcism remove the activity?

Keith: The local parish performed multiple cleansings on the house. The house was blessed multiple times. None of it seemed to work, and that's not unusual for what many believe was a poltergeist infestation. There are documented cases that suggest religious ceremonies in a home can make the activity worse. That doesn't mean you should do it; it just means you should be cautious and careful.

So the activity spiked. Especially with the local church's involvement. The official exorcism on the house, the one conducted by Fr. Roy, seemed to quiet things down. But keep in mind my girlfriend had moved out by that time.

The activity would always spike. I'm talking about a bell curve. Fr. Roy was speaking the truth when he said house exorcisms rarely work on a poltergeist. But we had to try because we don't hundred percent know what it is we're dealing with. Everyone has come to the conclusion that our house has multiple spirits lurking it. Multiple negative energies.

Q: Different assessments have been given to you about the cause of your paranormal activity, including that your house is haunted by an intelligent spirit, a poltergeist, or a demon. What do you think caused the paranormal activity in your home?

Keith: That's a great question. Get ready for a weird answer. In short, I don't really know. No one does. I am currently entertaining one theory, and that's because I was able to obtain county records of what took place in the house prior to us moving in (I acquired that recently). And by prior I mean in 2008-2009. Tina and I moved in May 2012. I found out through careful research that a family, the one I mention in my book, experienced some horrible circumstances in the house. I'm talking about the worse you can ever imagine or even fathom.

For the record, no one has ever died in the home. But there have been near-death experiences with the previous tenants. The tenant I found online after two years of research came clean to me. She described the house as a

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Keith often found strange symbols drawn on the walls of his house, including 666, upside-down crosses, and a stick figure of an upside-down man. A perpetrator was never found.

living Hell. Her words were: "It was the beginning of the end in that house." That's how she described it after not living in the house for say five years. Their experience was still raw to them.

She barely spoke to me. So I combined what she told me, did some online research myself, and was able to discover that there were multiple suicide attempts. I'm talking about horrific suicide attempts. There was violence against her. Physical violence, which I document in my book. Her son (nearly an infant at the time) was gravely sick. He developed a rare form of meningitis that brought him to death's door multiple times. Add in the financial struggles they faced and more darker stuff — that might be a recipe for attracting dark negative spirits.

What I can't figure out is which came first. Were the spirits already there? Or were they summoned due to the darkness taking place? It's like the chicken and the egg analogy. Here's what I know and I'll forever stick by this. I go down to the mat believing this. There was a poltergeist there. It's still there. There were demonic forces there also. They're still there. I explain in my book why that's the case.

Some U.S. investigators and some U.K. investigators uncovered evidence that suggests there is an intelligent haunting taking place, as well as some residual activity. The house is the Grand Central Station for everything you can imagine.

Q: The TV show *Ghost Adventures* filmed at your house, but they said they didn't find any evidence of paranormal activity during their investigation. Why do you think they didn't capture any evidence?

Keith: In my opinion, *The Ghost Adventures* investigation was doomed from the start based on two things: time and absence. They were only in the house for a few hours. Any investigator or researcher will tell you, and I learned this on day one, so I'm surprised *Ghost Adventures* didn't know this or better yet try to mitigate it, they had two constraints against them the minute they walked in the door. One was time. Just because a house is as active as ours was doesn't mean evidence gathering is going to be easy. Actually, it means the opposite. Intelligent spirits don't respond on queue. They see everything. They know all they have to do is wait out the investigator. In this instance, that was *Ghost Adventures*.

You can bring all the fancy gadgets in the world to our house, that fancy stuff is not going to yield evidence if the spirits decide they don't want to do anything. Their investigation began after 11 p.m. They were done by 3 a.m. For a spirit living in eternity — that's nothing. The one constraint *Ghost Adventures* had control over was what to do with Keith and Tina. I understand they like to have locations to themselves for what they call a lockdown. But understand,

the spirits in our house don't follow *Ghost Adventures'* rules. They follow their own rules, and the rules at the time was the activity was happening around Keith and Tina. If we're the common denominator, then it makes sense to keep us inside the home. If there's evidence to be gathered, then it's going to happen with Tina and me present.

Why shoot your investigation in the foot by escorting us away. Make the episode a teachable moment. Say out loud we're going to alter our usual format by keeping the house occupants present during the entire investigation. That's your best chance of getting data. Especially with our house. We know that format works, because other teams kept us present. Other teams kept me present, and they left with a treasure trove of evidence. Nicole Novelle and her U.S. team for one, as well as parapsychologist Steve Mera and his team (Don Philips, SSPR Nick Kyle).

Q: On the other hand, the documentary *Demons in Seattle* (due for release this summer) caught compelling evidence of a haunting in your home. How was this investigative team able to capture evidence of the paranormal?

Keith: Well, #1, they lived in the home, and by live in the home I mean for two weeks. So that solved the time constraint problem. #2, they didn't send me away. That solved the absence problem. Steve Mera and his chief investigator/researcher did something I rarely see investigators do when investigating my house. They changed strategy the minute they realized the spirits were purposely being evasive. I mean purposely being elusive.

They realized this when they saw one of the motion detection cameras purposely being turned around (facing the wall) when we all were in the same room. People have always made fun of the evidence I post on YouTube as stuff always happening off camera. Well, the men saw why that was the case and in doing so switched their game plan. They pivoted from the rulebook they had adopted prior to arriving. One of the biggest satisfactions for me throughout this whole ordeal is seeing the facial reaction of a parapsychologist once an object has moved by itself. They're closer to the object than me, and they see it with their own eyes. Or they hear disembodied voices come out of the air, voices talking about them, not me.

Their reaction and commentary are priceless. It was the ultimate vindication for me after the ill treatment we received from the *Ghost Adventures* episode. I hope the world sees the documentary. It's due out this summer. I've been championing its release. God, I hope the world sees it.

Q: What do you have to say to those who don't believe your house is haunted?

After Keith researched the above symbol he found drawn on his walls, he made a disturbing discovery. It symbolized that "a man has died" or a "man is about to die."

Keith: Not much. I mean people are entitled to their own opinion or their own beliefs. I've noticed there are different categories for those who don't believe us. Some believe since *Ghost Adventures* didn't find anything, that means it's not true. We're hoaxers. Despite all the evidence online, they're refusing to believe based on the fact of what *Ghost Adventures* didn't find. I feel sorry for those people.

The career skeptic, career cynic is never going to believe. I can't help those people. I can't help anyone for that matter. Belief is about having an open mind. To believe something such as this requires you to throw away what you think you know about the paranormal. I lived through this for four years. I'm still finding out stuff. I get emails from so many people about new EVPs they've found (not me) on some of my YouTube videos. I'm talking about Class A, Class B EVPs. Stuff I overlooked or didn't know existed. There is stuff Steve and Don missed — even in their own files — that I've discovered or others have discovered upon second and third review.

Those who do believe me are blown away, and rightfully so.

→

I have no problem with someone who's objective. I only asked that you have an open mind. We have to abandon the notion that "if it doesn't fit my worldview, it must not be true." I can't understand that mentality.

Q: You finally moved out of the house in 2016. Why did you leave?

Keith: Four years was enough. I mean the U.S. team and U.K. team had done a great job in researching the house. The U.S. team lived in the home three and half weeks, and prior to that monitored it for eight months — remotely. When both teams made their findings public, I felt then it was time to go.

> "We have to abandon this notion that 'if it doesn't fit my worldview, it must not be true.'"

I explain this several times in my book. I'm not a cut-and-run type of person. This was my house. People always argue, well you were renting it, why not leave? Leaving to me was just too cliché. It was like a knee-jerk reaction. Who's to say I won't be followed? One of the things I found out after living there was that multiple people have lived in the house. Most for a short period of time. The previous tenant I mentioned earlier said they just got out. They left the minute the cabinet doors started opening by themselves. And I understand that. They had children to consider.

Tina and I had made a mental decision after the poster fire to stay in the home. As long as we got help. And help was hard to come by. I mean the house was a living Hell. The previous tenant was accurate in her comment that "living there was a living Hell." There was no way I was going to leave without our claims being substantiated, especially after the *Demons in Seattle* episode. The house deserved a better epitaph. As did Tina and I.

No team on Earth can say a location is not haunted based on what they didn't find. Nor can they say we exaggerated. If there's one silver lining to this ordeal, it's me moving out on my own terms. That and our claims being substantiated are the only silver linings I can think of. The horror of it all is that Tina and I broke up. So you see, the spirit won.

Q: You recently published your book *The Bothell Hell House: Poltergeist of Washington State,* which provides a detailed account of your experiences and what you went through. What do you hope readers take away from your book?

Keith: I want the reader to understand what vexing means. Understand it from a malevolent spirits point of view. Tina and I were very naive. We were clueless. You will see this in the book. You will feel it too. We were way in over our heads, as were a lot of paranormal teams and clergy.

But vexing, I want the reader to understand that's what's was happening. Tina and I were in a vice, and it was squeezing us while separating us at the same time. These spirits in this house had one purpose. Break me and Tina up. They broke up the previous tenants, the ones I spoke to.

What you read in the book actually happened. Some people are going to have a hard time comprehending some of these claims. And that's OK. Read it anyway. It's a true story. The book was written in a way to get us out of our comfort zone of what a malevolent haunting is. This is not Hollywood. This is not TV. Truth has always been stranger and more elusive than fiction. This book is no exception. From page one to page 436 is our history of what happened. It will challenge you. And that's a good thing.

Q: Finally, what advice do you have for those who experience a haunting?

Keith: Stay grounded. That's my #1 advice. If you need to get out, get out. Should you decide to stay and fight, then I strongly recommend getting a support system. I learned who my real friends and family were during this ordeal. Develop a support system and stick to it. I know it's hard, but you have to find help, and by help I mean good help. Not all help is good help. There are a lot of sheep in wolves clothing, and by wolves clothing I mean thrill seekers, opportunists, and some paranormal investigators.

Never let anyone tell you what you saw or heard is not real. Trust your instincts — trust me the spirit does. And lastly, document everything. There's no such thing as too much information. Documenting everything: when, what, how, what time, the weather outside, the weather inside, etc., these things strengthen your credibility in the eyes of true researchers. Ignore skeptics and cynics. I was good at documenting because I've been in IT for so long. That's what we do. We document. That and staying grounded are your biggest assets. Good luck.

* * * * *

For more information about the Bothell house case, visit https://demonsinseattle.com/ and https://www.americansupernatural.com/. For the book "The Bothell Hell House: Poltergeist of Washington State," visit https://www.amazon.com/Bothell-Hell-House-Poltergeist-Washington/dp/1983988367. Also visit https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqEbwZ8f4PI4PY2m0FejXpQ?view_as=subscriber and https://www.facebook.com/Washington-State-Poltergiest-House-705963559540294/?ref=bookmarks. ◆

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CREEPY CRATE
BY THE LINEUP

8 Haunted Places You Can Actually Rent on Airbnb

By DeAnna Janes, Via The-Line-Up.com

Need a place to stay? Forgo weak motel coffee and mysteriously stained bath towels for the spooky room service your dark heart desires. Russia may have its haunted chateaus and England its chambers of doom, but the United States has historic homes with their own eternal guests.

Here are eight haunted places on Airbnb you can rent right now. Don't say you weren't warned ...

1. Laura's Ghost Cottage (Savannah, GA)

An 18th-century cottage outfitted with exposed pine and breezy linens, Laura's cottage is located in Savannah's Historic District. Not only is it a stop on local ghost tours, it's also the setting for Robert Redford's film *The Conspirator*. Oh, and "Laura" is not the Airbnb host — she's the woman who lived there for 50 years and now makes frequent visits ... from beyond the grave.

Click here to find out more about her, and rent here on Airbnb.

This 18th century cottage is in the heart of historic Savannah off Columbia Square. (Photo source: Airbnb)

2. The Manor-Master Chamber (Saint Paul, MN)

While the hosts of this location have yet to fess up to the spotting of any ghosts, the dwelling's description as "the most mysterious house in Saint Paul" begs to differ. It's been rented out for rituals and boasts décor and furniture right out of a classic haunted-house horror movie. There is also a resident Doberman, named Scorch. Even non-dog lovers may find him a useful watchdog when it comes to fending off lingering spirits from the aforementioned rituals.

Click here to rent on Airbnb.

This mysterious manor is said to have been rented out to those who have performed "rituals." (Photo source: Airbnb)

3. Parks-Bowman Mansion (New Orleans, LA)

Located in the Garden District, this sprawling three-tier stunner with deep porches sounds inviting. Except for one thing: this home boasts a "haunted bedroom," aptly named because of the little girl in the yellow dress who has made the room her home from beyond the grave.

Click here to rent on Airbnb.

4. Civil War Farmhouse (Gettysburg, PA)

Fans of Casper may want to consider the for-rent bedroom in this farmhouse as a place to rest their laurels. Used as a field hospital after the bloodiest battle of the bloodiest war, the David Stewart Farm is actually already occupied by the host and her two dogs and six cats. But that doesn't even begin to cover the many "others" who reside there. This from the host: "Yes, the house is haunted, but they are all friendly!"

Click here to rent on Airbnb.

The David Stewart Farm is located in historic Gettysburg. The farmhouse and barn were used as a civil war field hospital after the Battle of Gettysburg. (Photo source: Airbnb)

5. Haunted Castle House (Brumley, MO)

Live like kings and queens in this paranormally active, pre-Civil War abode set back in the Ozark Hills. Though it's on the smaller side of what "castle" usually implies, the home accommodates eight. According to the hosts, the house is a great place to get a good night's sleep — despite the fact that it's apparently rife with ghosts. Good luck with that shut-eye.

UPDATE: Brumley's Castle House no longer links to Airbnb. The hosts now rent their rooms directly via Haunted Castle House.

6. Haunted Witch House in the Mountains (Crestline, CA)

This neo-Gothic witchy wonder comes equipped with everything you'd need to summon the dead: think tarot cards, crystals, candles, and skulls. Officially called Crescent Manor, the house sleeps eight, though we're not sure anyone will be catching zzz's in between sightings of the previous owner who died in the house.

Click here to rent on Airbnb.

7. Terlingua Ghost Town Ruin (Terlingua, TX)

Why stay with one ghost when you can stay in a whole town of 'em? This casita, built by a miner more than 100 years ago, has remained loyal to its creator's rustic design, though there is Wi-Fi should you need to Google how to expel spirit. Dubbed "Boystown" in the '80s, the stacked limestone cabin is just a stone's throw from an old jail and a graveyard with enough paranormal activity to keep you up all night long.

The reportedly haunted Crescent Manor (AKA the Haunted Witch House) is a neo-Gothic fairy-tale retreat, nestled in the San Bernardino National Forest. (Photo source: Airbnb)

Click here to rent on Airbnb.

8. 1880s Jail (Anaconda, MT)

Now refurbished into a wood-accented cabin, this one-time jailhouse still has its bars: seriously, the bedroom is enclosed in the clink. It also features its own saloon-looking bar. Getting sauced may be in order, as it's located in an actual ghost town and offers a spooky atmosphere come nightfall — though the a.m. promises a killer breakfast. And just in case the sounds of silence get to be too much, the EXITS are clearly marked.

Click here to rent on Airbnb. ◆

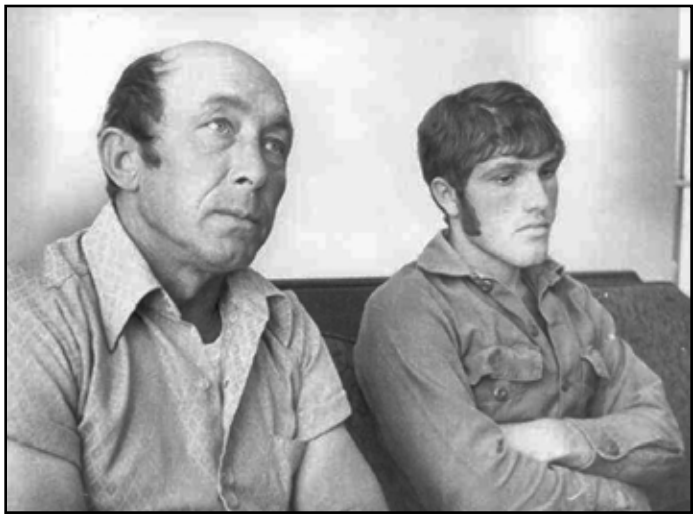
This reportedly haunted cabin is actually an 1880s jail house complete with bars. (Photo source: Airbnb)

UFO CONTACT AT PASCAGOULA

By Philip Mantle, FlyingDiskPress.blogspot.co.uk

There are many alien abduction close encounter reports from around the world. I have personally investigated a number of such encounters here in the U.K. Out of all of these events, there is one for me that has always struck a chord, and that is the encounter at Pascagoula, Mississippi, on October 11, 1973. The two men involved were 42-year-old Charles Hickson and 19-year-old Calvin Parker. Both men loved to fish, and on the night in question on the banks of the Pascagoula River just off highway 90, they would catch more than just fish.

The Pascagoula abduction occurred in 1973 when coworkers Hickson and Parker claimed that they were abducted by aliens while fishing near Pascagoula. The case earned substantial mass media attention and is, along with the earlier Barney and Betty Hill abduction, among the best-known claims of alien abduction.



Pictured above in an October 18, 1973, photo, are Charles Hickson (left) and Calvin Parker Jr. (right) of Pascagoula, Mississippi. The duo said they were abducted by aliens while they were fishing. (Photo source: Gary Holland/AP)

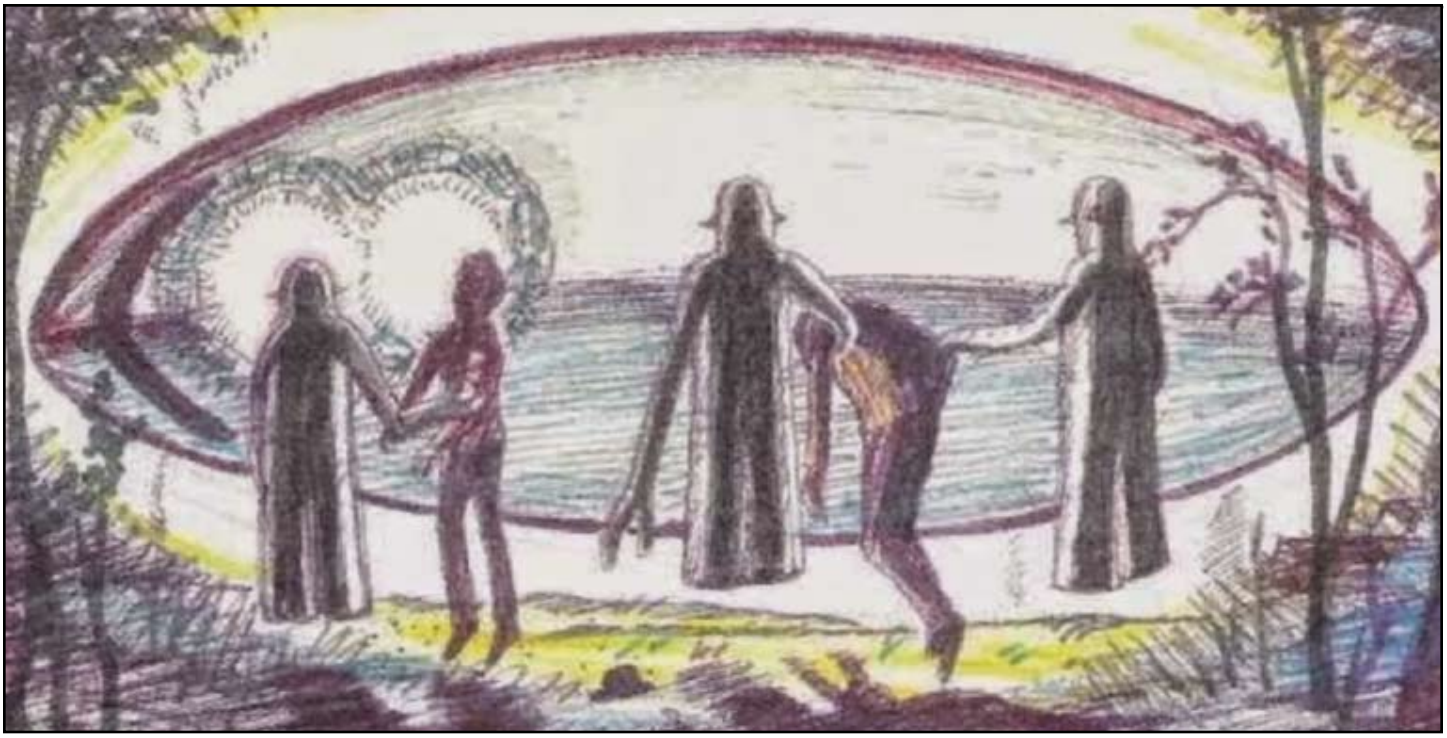
The UFO Encounter

On the evening of October 11, 1973, Hickson and Parker — co-workers at a shipyard — were fishing off a pier on the west bank of the Pascagoula River in Mississippi. They heard a whirring/whizzing sound, saw two flashing blue lights, and reported that an oval-shaped "craft," some eight feet across and eight or more feet high, suddenly appeared near them. The ship seemed to levitate about two feet above the ground. A door opened on the ship, they said, and three creatures emerged and seized the men, floating or levitating them into the craft. Both men reported being paralyzed and numb. Parker claimed that he had fainted due to fright.

They described the creatures as being roughly humanoid in shape and standing about five feet tall. The creatures' skin was pale in color and wrinkled, they had no eyes that the men could discern, and they had slits for mouths. Their heads also appeared connected directly to their shoulders, with no discernible neck. There were three "carrot-like" growths instead — one where the nose would be on a human; the other two where ears would normally be.

The beings had lobster-like claws at the ends of their arms, and they seemed to have only one leg (Hickson later described the creatures' lower bodies looking as if their legs were fused together), ending in elephant-like feet. Hickson also reported that the creatures moved in mechanical, robotic ways.

On the ship, Hickson claimed that he was somehow levitated or hovered a few feet above the floor of the craft and was examined by what looked like a large football-shaped mechanical eye, about six to eight inches in diameter, that seemed to scan his body. Parker claimed that he could not recall what had happened to him inside the craft, although later, during sessions of hypnotic regression, he offered some hazy details.



Three aliens abducted Hickson and Parker, taking them aboard their ship. Hickson claimed that he was examined by what looked like a large football-shaped mechanical eye that seemed to scan his body. (Photo source: FindingUFO YouTube channel)

The men were released after about 15 to 20 minutes, and the creatures levitated them, with Hickson's feet dragging along the ground, back to their original positions on the river bank. Both men said they were terrified by what had happened. They claimed to have sat in a car for about 45 minutes, trying to calm themselves. Hickson drank a small amount of whiskey.

After some discussion, they tried to report their story to officials at Keesler Air Force Base, but personnel told them the United States Air Force had nothing to do with UFO reports and suggested the men notify police. At about 10:30 p.m., Hickson and Parker arrived at the Jackson County, Mississippi, Sheriff's office. They brought the catfish they'd caught while fishing; it was the only proof they had to back up their story. Sheriff Fred Diamond thought the men seemed sincere and genuinely frightened, and he thought Parker was especially disturbed. Diamond harbored some doubt about the fantastic story, however, due in part to Hickson's admitted whiskey consumption.

The "Secret Tape"

Sheriff Diamond interviewed the men, who related their story. After repeated questioning, Diamond left the two men alone in a room that was, unknown to Hickson or Parker, rigged with a hidden microphone. Sheriff Diamond assumed that if they were lying, that fact would become immediately apparent when the two spoke privately. Instead, they continued to talk in the voices of the terribly distressed. This so-called "secret tape" was held on file at the Jackson County Sheriff's department and has since earned wider circulation amongst UFO researchers and enthusiasts.

Parker, who seemed particularly shaken, spoke repeatedly of his wish to see a doctor. A partial transcript of their interrogation and of the "secret tape" is available. Immediately below is part of the conversation on the "secret tape," as transcribed by UFO researchers:

CALVIN: I got to get home and get to bed or get some nerve pills or see the doctor or something. I can't stand it. I'm about to go half crazy.

CHARLIE: I tell you, when we're through, I'll get you something to settle you down so you can get some damn sleep.

CALVIN: I can't sleep yet like it is. I'm just damn near crazy.

CHARLIE: Well, Calvin, when they brought you out — when they brought me out of that thing, goddamn it I like to never in hell got you straightened out.

His voice rising, Calvin said, "My damn arms, my arms. I remember they just froze up and I couldn't move. Just like I stepped on a damn rattlesnake."

"They didn't do me that way," sighed Charlie. Now both men were talking as if to themselves.

CALVIN: I passed out. I expect I never passed out in my whole life.

CHARLIE: I've never seen nothin' like that before in my life. You can't make people believe.

→

The ETs' skin was pale in color and wrinkled, they had no discernible eyes, and they had slits for mouths. (Photo source: FindingUFO YouTube channel)

CALVIN: I don't want to keep sittin' here. I want to see a doctor.

CHARLIE: They better wake up and start believin' ... they better start believin'.

CALVIN: You see how that damn door come right up?

CHARLIE: I don't know how it opened, son. I don't know.

CALVIN: It just laid up and just like that those son' bitches — just like that they come out.

CHARLIE: I know. You can't believe it. You can't make people believe it.

CALVIN: I paralyzed right then. I couldn't move.

CHARLIE: They won't believe it. They gonna believe it one of these days. Might be too late. I knew all along they was people from other worlds up there. I knew all along. I never thought it would happen to me.

CALVIN: You know yourself I don't drink.

CHARLIE: I know that, son. When I get to the house I'm gonna get me another drink, make me sleep. Look, what we sittin' around for. I gotta go tell Blanche ... what we waitin' for?

CALVIN (panicky): I gotta go to the house. I'm gettin' sick. I gotta get out of here.

Then Charlie got up and left the room, and Calvin was alone

CALVIN: It's hard to believe ... Oh God, it's awful ... I know there's a God up there.

Seeing that the police were skeptical of their story, Hickson and Parker insisted that they take lie detector tests to prove their honesty.

Hickson and Parker returned to work the day after the encounter (Friday, October 12). They did not initially discuss their purported UFO encounter, but coworkers noted that Parker seemed very anxious and preoccupied. Within hours, Sheriff Diamond telephoned the men at work, stating that news reporters were swarming in his office, seeking more information about the UFO story.

An angry Hickson accused Diamond of breaking his confidentiality pledge, but Diamond insisted he had not done so and that the case was too sensational to keep quiet. Hickson's foreman overheard Hickson's side of the conversation and asked what had occurred. Hickson related his story to the foreman and to shipyard owner Johnny Walker. After hearing the tale, Walker suggested that Hickson and Parker contact Joe Colingo, a locally prominent attorney (who was Walker's brother-in-law and also represented the shipyard).

Colingo met the men, and, during their conversation, Hickson expressed fears about having been exposed to radiation. Colingo and detective Tom Huntley then took Parker and Hickson to a local hospital, which lacked the facilities for a radiation test.

From the hospital, the men went to Keesler Air Force Base, where they were examined extensively by several doctors. Afterward, reported Huntley, Parker and Hickson were interviewed by the military intelligence chief of the base, with the "whole base command" observing the proceedings.

Colingo drew up a contract to represent Hickson and Parker. However, nothing came of this, and Hickson would later have nothing to do with Colingo, charging the lawyer with base financial motivations: Colingo, said Hickson, "just wanted to make a buck."

Within days, Pascagoula was the center of an international news story, with reporters swarming the town. Professor James A. Harder (a U.C. Berkeley engineering professor) and Dr. J. Allen Hynek (an astronomer formerly with Project Blue Book) both arrived and interviewed Parker and Hickson. Harder tried to hypnotize the men, but they were too anxious and distracted for the procedure to work — Parker especially so.

Hynek withheld ultimate judgment on the case but did announce that, in his judgment, Hickson and Parker were honest men who seemed genuinely distressed about what had occurred.

Tiring of the publicity, Hickson and Parker went to Jones County, Mississippi (about 150 miles north of Pascagoula), where both men hoped to find relief with family

members. Parker was eventually hospitalized for what was described as "an emotional breakdown."

In an interview several years after the claimed UFO event, Hickson speculated that Parker fared worse after the encounter because he had never previously experienced a profoundly frightening ordeal. While Hickson described the UFO encounter as the most terrifying event in his life, he also noted that he had seen combat in the Korean War and that he thus had some familiarity with a terrifying experience. The younger Parker, on the other hand, had never suffered through a terrifying encounter, let alone a bizarre confrontation with something that was not even supposed to exist.

The polygraph examiner determined that Hickson believed the story about the UFO abduction.

On September 9, 2011, Charles Hickson died at age 80, but never backed off the alien abduction story despite ridicule. As noted above, both Parker and Hickson volunteered to take polygraph exams to prove their stories. In the end, only Hickson did so, and the examiner determined that Hickson believed the story about the UFO abduction.

Aftermath

Parker has avoided most public attention since the event. Hickson appeared on Dick Cavett's TV talk show in January 1974 and spoke at occasional UFO conferences; he co-wrote a book about the event with William Mendez, titled *UFO Contact at Pascagoula* (1983).

In 2001, retired Navy Chief Petty Officer Mike Cataldo revealed that he observed an unusual craft at dusk on the same date. While traveling with crew mates Ted Peralta and Mack Hanna on U.S. Route 90 from Pascagoula to Ocean Springs, an object like a large tambourine with small flashing lights approached from the northwest and crossed the freeway, before hovering over the tree line and disappearing. As he approached his home in St. Andrews, Ocean Springs, the craft made a second appearance at lower altitude.

The Day Before the Pascagoula Encounter

Yet more information has recently come to light. The following is an email I received from Evan (full name on file), who responded to my interview "On Open Minds" radio in 2017.

"I listened to your interview on 'Open Minds' recently. I was 12 years old when the Hickson/Parker abduction took place. There was a UFO flap on the Mississippi coast at the time. Several stories were reported in the local newspapers before the Pascagoula event. I lived on a farm in Stone County with my parents. Stone is diagonally adjacent to Jackson County where Pascagoula is located. About an hour before the Hickson/Parker event took place a UFO flew over our farm. If you can imagine a sodium vapor street lamp silently slowly floating overhead, then you get the idea.

"My dad happened to be outside and screamed for us to come outside fast. We watched it until it was almost out of sight, then it shrank to a red dot and darted south like it was shot out of a rifle. Although it was about the color of a street light, it was not at all harsh and didn't cause spots before my eyes.

"The next day the Pascagoula story was in the news. For two or three weeks this thing flew a similar route near the farm but never as close as that first night, and I never observed it turn red again. It was always before 8 p.m. On several occasions it traveled below the tree-line. You could see it pass behind individual tree trunks. I'm surprised MUFON in MS didn't know about this. Makes me wonder what else they don't know.

"I've fished at the spot where this happened. It is near Ingall's shipyard and Highway 90. At the time there was a shipyard security camera pointed in the general direction of where the UFO should have been. It was later reported that nothing unusual was observed on the camera footage at the time of the event. One reason the story never caught on in my opinion is that Mississippi is at the bottom rung of the socioeconomic ladder. We are in 50th place.

"A lot of people joked about Hickson and Parker as a couple of drunk, illiterate, slack-jawed yokels with overactive imaginations. They weren't intellectuals, but they certainly deserved better treatment than that. I'm definitely getting the book. I've always been disappointed it wasn't acknowledged as one of the significant abduction stories."

—Evan

Unfortunately, this unique close encounter has fallen by the wayside and has been largely forgotten by many UFO researchers. It was with that in mind that in late 2017, I reached out to Calvin Parker and I re-published the book on this fascinating event. I have also been asked by a colleague who works in the film and TV industry to consider a movie based on the experience of Hickson and Parker. Irrespective of that, there is no doubt that this is one of the most unique close encounters on record.

The book "UFO Contact at Pascagoula" is available now in paperback and Kindle on Amazon. ◆

21 Creepy Mythical Creatures From Around the World That Terrify

By Audrey Webster via The Lineup

We've all heard of Bigfoot and the chupacabra, but what about Almasty or the Bili ape? The world is full of terrifying, mythical monsters and scary creatures still awaiting valid discovery, but that doesn't stop our imaginations from running wild. Here's a list of startling creatures each continent claims as their own. Some people wholeheartedly believe in these stories. Do you?

Africa

Eloko

These dwarf-like creatures are said to reside in the forests of Africa and are thought to be the ancestral spirits of the people who live in the area. The legend makes them out to be a kind of ghost, a being that haunts the forest because they have unfinished business with the living. They lurk in the darkest reaches of the trees and are generally considered to be malicious.

Jengu

The jengu is a water spirit whose appearance shifts depending on the beholder. Common descriptions make them out to be a mermaid-like creature with long hair and beautiful gap teeth. Sound appealing?

One of their most valuable traits is their ability to cure disease, making them a favorite hunt for locals. To further their endearment, they're thought to be the communicators between the living and spiritual realm.

Kongamato

Information on this creature hinges largely on stories of large wounds and eyewitness accounts. These sightings originally came from explorers and the people living in the swamps of Western Zambia, Angola, and Congo. Despite the many claims of kongamato sightings, there is a lack of physical evidence of the bird-like creatures.

The bodies of supposed victims were never examined to confirm the creature. Most attribute the sightings to a misidentified bird or giant bat.

Source: Jeff Carter / HowStuffWorks

Bili ape

Originally thought to be a mythical creature, the Bili ape continues to stump scientists even today. Reports say that the ape-like chimpanzee walks upright at a height of about five and half feet.

The Bili's incredible aggression, including stories about the creature killing and eating leopards, has given it a mythical status despite their very real existence.

Asia

Kappa

The kappa is generally thought to lurk in the ponds and rivers of Japan and resemble a giant salamander. As if this

wasn't unnerving enough, they are also regarded as mischievous and sometimes violent tricksters. Their description does tend to change based on the region they are spotted in; however, they are consistently blamed for drownings.

Children are warned to stay away from the water's edge so that a kappa cannot lure them into the water and pull them under.

Almasty

This Mongolian "wild man" can be thought of as a version of the famed North American Bigfoot. It's covered in reddish-brown hair and stands five to six-and-a-half feet tall. Scientists have routinely discounted the sightings saying that while there could be something in these woods, the numbers would have to be too low to allow for the necessary breeding to sustain a population.

Local descriptions tend to vary, but a common comparison likens the almasty to a Neanderthal.

North America

Chupacabra

You may already be familiar with the chupacabra thanks to its status as a favorite in popular culture. The name literally means "goat sucker" and was titled such after a series of fatal attacks in Puerto Rico that left the victims with three-holed bite marks and completely drained of blood.

The most common sighting has it appearing as a reptile-like creature with leathery or scaly greenish-gray skin and standing at three to four feet tall. It's been spotted anywhere from Maine to Chile.

Hodag

Made famous by its appearance in several Paul Bunyan stories, the hodag is a fearsome mythical creature, hailing from Wisconsin. According to newspaper reports in 1893, the creature had "the head of a frog, the grinning face of a giant elephant, thick short legs set off by huge claws, the back of a dinosaur, and a long tail with spears at the end."

Even with his mismatched description, the hodag has become a mascot for its hometown, Rhinelander. There are statues of the creature erected across the town, including in front of the chamber of commerce.

Skunk ape

As you may have guessed, this next creature is named for both its appearance and its accompanying legendary foul smell. Sightings have it living in the swamps of the south. Locals reported many sightings during the 1960s and '70s, which have since decreased. There is little explanation as to what it could have been or what may have caused the sudden decline in sightings.

However, as recently as 2000, two photographs were taken by an anonymous woman of a skunk ape in her backyard. She claimed that it left a pile of apples on her porch; at the time, she believed it to be an escaped orangutan.

Bigfoot

A folkloric favorite, Bigfoot is a famous resident of the dense forests in the Pacific Northwest. This tall, hairy, humanoid creature has a plethora of sightings in the area. So much so that there are tourist attractions in the more remote parts of Oregon and Washington dedicated to the beast.

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Despite this, scientists today still regard the reported sightings to be a combination of misidentification and hoaxes due to the lack of physical evidence.

South America

Encantado

True to its name, the encantado is fond of abducting humans with whom they fall in love, the children born of their illicit love affairs, or simply anyone lingering near the river. The fear of these dolphin-like creatures is so great that the people who live along the Amazon River are terrified of going near the water between dusk and dawn or entering the water alone.

People who have encountered an encantado are said to have gone insane.

Maricoxi

Maricoxi is the name given to several ape-like creatures supposedly lurking in the jungles of South America. Reports say that, upon being sighted, these creatures charge any human they encounter.

According to locals, there are five "types" of Maricoxi, ranging from two feet to 12 feet. One type supposedly has feet that face backwards.

Yacu-mama

According to legends, the yacu-mama dwells at the mouth of the Amazon River and reaches up to 50 paces long. This creature is said to suck up any other human or animal that comes within 100 feet of it. Locals say that the yacu-mama is the mother of all sea creatures.

Because of its propensity to eat anything nearby, locals will blow on a conch horn before entering the water. Supposedly, the yacu-mama would show itself after being called by the horn.

Europe

Tatzelwurm

Descriptions for this next creature vary more than most. Alpine folklore describes it as a stubby lizard-like creature sometimes taking the appearance of a cat with the hind end of a serpent and no rear legs. The first documented sighting was as early as 1779.

Subsequent sightings, including the discovery of a body, gave rise to the popularity of the creature. Unlike the others on this list, the wealth of evidence surrounding it suggests it actually could have existed at one point. Scientists, however, remain skeptical of these claims.

Black Shuck

This ghostly black dog is said to roam the coastline of East Anglia. Recurring descriptions say that the shuck is a dog with shaggy black hair, red round eyes, and sharpened teeth.

The beast can vary in size and shape, ranging from the size of a large dog to that of a horse.

Most legends say the black shuck bodes ill to the beholder, causing illness, the inability to lead a normal life, and, in some cases, death. However, some stories say that the shuck will accompany lone women home as protection.

Am Fear Liath Mòr

Recorded encounters with this creature exist from as early as 1851, although they were not made public until 1925. A seasoned climber on the mountainside of Ben Macdui reported hearing footsteps trailing his own though he could see nothing through the dense fog surrounding him.

Following cases include hikers claiming to feel a sudden, unexplained bout of fear or unease, and seeing a dark gray figure in the seemingly unmoving mist encapsulating the mountain.

There is still little explanation today for what these occurrences could be. Often called the "Big Gray Man of Ben Macdui," this strange creature is described as standing 10 feet tall and covered in short, gray hair.

Kelpie

This is the name Scots have given to a malevolent shape-shifting water spirit said to inhabit the lochs and pools of Scotland. Usually the kelpie is described as appearing as a horse; however, it retains the ability to adopt a human form.

When the legend first arose, human sacrifices were made to gods associated with water, but contemporarily, narratives about the kelpie primarily serve to keep children away from dangerous waters.

Antarctica

Ningen

Reported sightings from Japanese government-backed whale ships are what first brought attention to this creature. Eyewitness accounts describe their human-like shape, including legs, arms, and sometimes even five-fingered hands.

> Large clumps of floating seaweed are rumored to hide Muldjewangks.

Some reports say the ningen also have fins, large mermaid-like tails, or even tentacles. However, joining the growing list of the unexplained, to date, there is no solid evidence to confirm or deny the sightings.

Kraken

You're likely familiar with this one because of its repeated appearance in popular culture. This underwater monster is said to dwell off the coast of Norway and Greenland in the chilly waters of the arctic. Its primary depiction is that of a large squid-like creature with deadly spikes on its suckers.

When the monster emerges from the ocean depths, the water bubbles or releases a sudden shift of currents, resembling an underwater volcano. The kraken has been reported to be the demise of many a ship in the area.

Australia

The Hawkesbury River Monster

Opinions are fairly split on this one. Some people living along the river are convinced this Nessie-like beast living at the mouth of the Hawkesbury River exists.

Their descriptions entail it having a long neck, bulky body, four flippers, an eel-like tail and mottled-gray skin.

However, there are an equal number of people who believe the stories are merely an exaggeration of folklore.

Muldjewangk

This Australian water-creature is thought to inhabit the Murray River, specifically Lake Alexandrina. Accounts tell of steamboat attacks and pestering the locals living along the water.

Large clumps of floating seaweed are rumored to hide Muldjewangks and are taught, especially to young children, to be avoided.

Large footprints have also been seen along the water's edge. However, most elders in the area claim that the creature no longer inhabits the river system. ◆

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Reiki in Everyday Life

By Karen Frazier, AuthorKarenFrazier.com

I am so proud to be a Reiki Master-Teacher, and one of my great joys in life is teaching others about this useful form of hands-on or distance-energy healing. Reiki has become such an ingrained part of my daily life, I almost don't realize how much I use it anymore.

I remember after my First Degree Reiki class and attunement, I wasn't quite sure what to do with the Reiki or how to incorporate it into my life. I took every opportunity I could find to channel the energy and was always seeking situations where it would be beneficial. Reiki was on my mind a lot back then.

Now a few years down the line with the daily practice of Reiki in my daily life and the number of Reiki students I have taught and attuned in the triple digits, I almost don't notice when I am incorporating Reiki into my life because it is such a part of what I do each day. And Reiki comes into my life daily at various times throughout the day.

I thought I'd share some of the ways I make Reiki a part of my daily life for those of you seeking to make the energy a bigger part of yours as well.

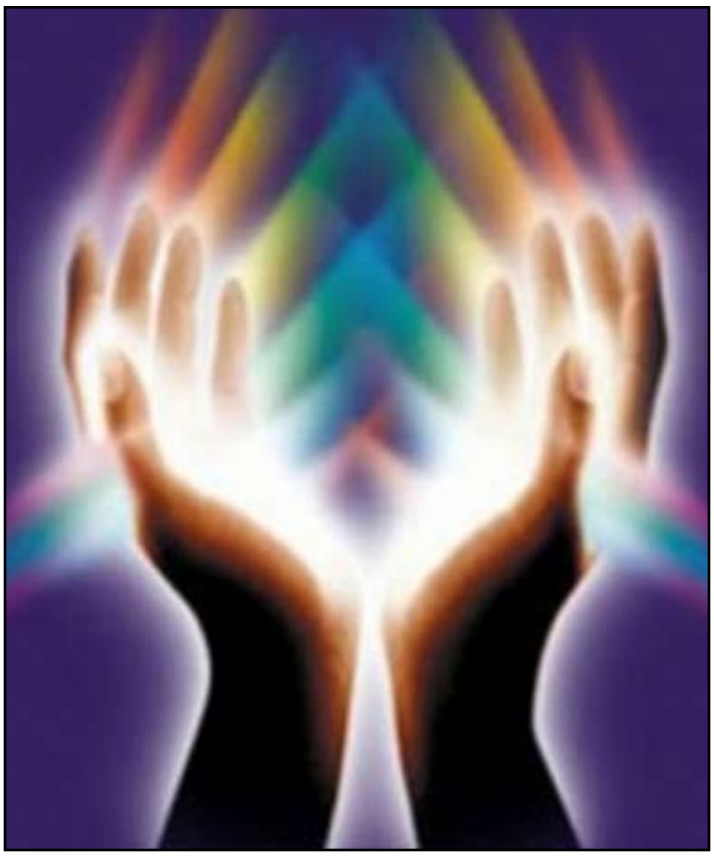
I give myself Reiki daily. Often, I don't even realize I'm doing it until I notice as I am sitting and petting the dogs or driving my car down the road that I have one hand placed somewhere on a body part and I feel the warmth coming from my hands and the well-being washing over me. But I also try to channel Reiki to myself with intention daily, even if only for five minutes.

When I hurt myself, my first response is always to place my hand(s) over the injury site and channel Reiki.

I channel Reiki to my pets daily.

I channel Reiki to my electronics.

I channel Reiki before I start work with the intention my writing be of high integrity and serve the highest and greatest good.



I send Reiki energy for the highest and greatest good any time I am concerned about something that is happening on the planet.

I channel Reiki energy briefly to my food and drink.

Any time I get in my car, which is 10 years old and

has about 200,000 miles on it now, I channel Reiki to my car.

Whenever I travel, I channel Reiki to my mode of transport, as well as channeling Reiki in spaces where I work or stay as I travel.

I channel Reiki to my plants, as well as to the water I give them.

I channel Reiki to people anytime they ask me to.

I channel Reiki during meditation, affirmations, and visualization to deepen my experience.

I channel Reiki to myself during Savasana after yoga and Nia.

I use Reiki to cleanse the crystal jewelry I wear.

I channel Reiki to my bath water before I bathe.

I channel Reiki into my home to shift energetic conditions.

Before every class I teach, I channel Reiki to the space to cleanse it.

I meditate briefly on the 5 Principles of Reiki daily and always intend to keep them as the guiding principles in my life.

Any time I enter a space that feels off energetically, I channel Reiki to it.

These are just a few of the ways I notice myself habitually incorporating Reiki energy into my life on a daily basis. I truly believe it enhances my life and brings me more peace, joy, and balance throughout every day.

As Reiki practitioners, you will find your own way to incorporate Reiki energy into your life, as well. Hopefully by learning a few of mine, you will find ways you can make channeling Reiki a practice in your life.

Read Karen's new energy healing book, "Higher Vibes Toolbox: Vibrational Healing for an Empowered Life," which is available on Amazon. ◆

Tarot History & Symbolism

By Karen Frazier, AuthorKarenFrazier.com

I have an affinity for tarot and own several decks. I don't use them in the traditional way. For me, tarot is a way to focus my attention, and the cards I draw serve as a jumping-off point for whatever energies I am working with in the moment.

Origins and History

There's all sorts of mythology about where tarot actually came from. Some suggest it has its roots in Ancient Egypt, while others suggest Ancient China or the Far East, and many believe that Romani people spread tarot from Asia into Europe.

However, as author Robert Place suggests in his well-researched book *The Tarot: History, Symbolism, and Divination,* tarot cards probably began in the 14th or 15th century BCE when playing cards became popular (playing cards likely came from China). Place argues cards weren't possible or practical until the advent of paper and that papyrus or parchment, which would have been used in Ancient Egypt or China, wasn't sturdy enough for use in tarot decks.

Originally, tarot decks were not used for divination, but rather as another version of a playing card game that was the precursor to what we know as Bridge today. Early tarot decks had four suits (what those suits were depended on the region they were created) with 10 pip cards (ace through 10) and four nobility cards (Page or Jack, Knight, Queen, and King). These are the cards that are known today as the Minor Arcana.

The decks also had 21 trump cards (what later became known as Major Arcana cards) that were played in a hierarchical order, and a wild card, which was The Fool (similar to Jokers in today's playing card decks).

Earliest Documented Deck

The earliest documented tarot cards came from Italy, and the oldest surviving deck is called the Visconti-Sforza Tarot, circa 1460. The deck was hand-painted by an artist for Francesco Sforza, the Duke of Milan. At the time, playing cards were a good way for artists to get their work known, and many special decks were hand-painted while others were stenciled and hand colored or printed using blocks. During this period, tarot decks were mostly for the well-heeled because of the work required to make them.

Spread Into Europe

As use of the printing press spread throughout Europe in the 1500s, playing cards (including tarot) became widely available, as did the obsession with card games.

Some of the earliest versions of printed tarot come from Marseilles, France, and the structure and design of these 78-card decks (known as the Tarot de Marseilles) remain the popular structure for many traditional tarot decks today, such as the Rider-Waite-Smith deck.

The Tarot de Marseilles was likely derived from earlier Milanese decks that the French came in contact with when they conquered Milan in 1499. Suits in this deck include the Minor Arcana Pentacles, Wands, Cups, and Swords, as well as Major Arcana cards featuring archetypal symbols.

Using Tarot for Divination

It wasn't until around the 18th century that documentation exists of tarot decks being used for divination; however, other forms of playing cards (including those similar to what we have today) were also used as a form of divination. Since that time, however, tarot cards and playing cards have followed divergent paths.

Playing cards remain popular today for gaming and entertainment, while tarot decks are used exclusively for divination. While many tarot decks still follow the structure popularized by the Tarot de Marseilles, there are many other forms people refer to as tarot, which would be more aptly called oracle cards because they don't have the same 78-card structure, including 56 Minor Arcana (in four suits) and 22 Major Arcana cards (including The Fool, which was once a wild card as opposed to part of the suit).

Regardless of whether you choose a traditional deck based on the traditional Tarot de Marseilles, you can learn traditional methods of tarot reading or do as I do and use the cards as a point of focus.

Using Tarot Symbolism in a Reading

When I use my decks (I select a deck randomly), I shuffle while focusing on a question and then draw a card. Using the imagery and symbolism from the card, as well as any thoughts or feelings the card may cause to arise, I use what I draw as a point of focus to help me find the answers to my questions within myself. In this way, tarot and oracle cards offer another tool in your arsenal for spiritual growth and development.

Symbols of the Suits

The four suits of the Latin tarot represent the four classical elements.

- Wands represent the classical element of fire. Their primary energy is "I desire," and they are associated with the spirit.
- Pentacles represent the classical element of earth. Their primary energy is "I have," and they are associated with the physical and the body.
- Swords represent the classical element of air. The primary energy is "I think," and they are associated with the mind.
- Cups represent the classical element of water. Their primary energy is "I feel," and they are associated with the heart and emotions.

Major Arcana Symbolism

There are 22 Major Arcana cards. Each represents an archetypal energy that follows the soul's journey from innocence to wisdom. Symbolism you'll find in Major Arcana cards include:

- Archetypal energies
- Numerology
- Their position in the Major Arcana — which other cards precede and follow them
- The symbols and images on the card
- The colors on the card

The Soul's Journey Through the Major Arcana

The 22 Major Arcana cards are numbered from 0 to 21. Symbolism on the cards includes imagery from the *Torah*, the *Bible*, astrology, numerology, Kabbalah, mythology, the chakra system, and many other traditions.

In brief, the Major Arcana cards are symbolized as follows:

- 0 — The Fool is the start of the soul's journey. The

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Fool is the archetype of the innocent — of a new soul embarking on an adventure with a beginner's mind and few tools with which to navigate.

• I — The Magician is the Fool with a few tools. In his early travels, he has gathered enough knowledge and ability that now he can conjure physically, bringing some of his Earthly desires to fruition using what he has collected.

• II — The High Priestess has gathered more tools, and she has begun to be aware of her spiritual gifts of insight through studies in metaphysics and religion. The High Priestess embodies the Divine Feminine as she embraces her intuitive gifts and wisdom.

• III — The Empress is pregnant, and her condition represents creativity. From her earlier travels, the Empress is open to new possibilities. She is also comfortable in Earthly pleasures — abundance, sensuality, health; she has brought her visions for physical success into reality.

• IV — The Emperor is the partner to the Empress. He is wise, powerful, and forward thinking, and he takes the physical safety and security of his subjects seriously. Still rooted in the physical realm, the Emperor is the culmination and manifestation of physical success and power.

• V — The Hierophant is sometimes known as the Pope. He is a figure of religious symbolism and the first archetype in the Major Arcana that moves from physical success and creation to a more spiritual focus. He is the bridge between the physical realm and higher realms of spirit.

• VI — The Lovers are ripe with spiritual imagery as the scene depicted on this Major Arcana card comes straight out of the Creation story in the *Book of Genesis*. The Lovers card is about making choices and about opening one's eyes to higher truths by partaking of the fruit from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil.

• VII — The Chariot depicts travel from the physical realm into spirituality, as well as finding new, higher principles that bring the traveler to a new level of success.

• VIII — Strength is the full flowering of new understanding as a maiden uses gentle, spiritual tactics to tame a lion instead of relying on physical power or strength. This card is all about the use of a new type of power the soul has attained through spiritual understanding, such as gentleness, kindness, and equanimity.

• IX — The Hermit depicts seeking the light of higher knowledge through inward travel and communication with the Divine via meditative practice.

• X — The Wheel of Fortune contains symbolism from the New Testament, astrology, alchemy, and the *Torah*. The card is about surrender and no longer attempting to control your fate, but rather trusting that guidance from the Divine will lead you where you need to be.

• XI — Justice is about finding reward in right thinking and right behavior. It depicts the soul living according to spiritual principles in order to obtain spiritual reward.

• XII — The Hanged Man is content with his circumstances, even if they appear outwardly difficult or even impossible. The Hanged Man is wise enough to know that sometimes the only way past difficult circumstances is through them, and you can either wait patiently and trust all will be well or fight like Hell, but the outcome will be the same, and the only difference will be how you experience it.

• XIII — Death often seems like a terrifying card, but in fact it is about allowing some aspect of self to die so something new and better can be reborn. Death is about transitions the soul travels through in order to obtain a new life based on higher principles.

• XIV — Temperance comes after swift change and represents a place of peace, even in the midst of change.

• XV — The Devil brings back imagery from the *Old Testament* and *Torah*, depicting the consequences of giving into the temptations of ego instead of staying on the path of spirit. However, even with its disturbing imagery, the Devil reminds one that freedom waits just past the

edges of temptation. In this way, the Devil depicts the dark night of the soul that all must pass through in order to obtain true spiritual freedom.

• XVI — The Tower is arguably the most cataclysmic of the Major Arcana cards, showing a burning tower being struck by lightning with people diving or falling from its heights. However, it is through this cataclysm that true new awareness can be sparked and a new devotion to higher spiritual principles begins.

Tarot and oracle cards offer another tool in your arsenal for spiritual growth and development.

• XVII — The Star is the first of a series of celestial cards depicting the new light that arises after the dark night of the soul and the thunderbolt associated with Death, the Devil, and the Tower. It reminds you that inspiration is there as the result of cataclysmic change and shows you that you have always been guided on your soul's journey.

• XVIII — The Moon depicts yin energy, telling you that on your soul's journey, your unconscious shares as many messages of wisdom with you as the more obvious clues the Universe provides. You are guided.

• XIX — The Sun depicts a triumphant return to light after a period of darkness, as well as a return to a far wiser form of innocence than that displayed at the beginning of the journey with The Fool. It gives you permission to enjoy the success your soul has achieved on its journey.

• XX — Judgment comes near the end of the journey; not because the soul is to be negatively judged by God, but as a way for the one traveling the journey to understand and appreciate where he has been and how far he has come.

• XXI — The World is the final destination in the soul's journey, arriving at peace, joy, love, balance, and wisdom. The World shows a journey well traveled as a soul has moved through its cycle from innocence to wisdom and from nearly purely physical to completely spirit.

The soul's journey as symbolized by the Major Arcana archetypes of the tarot is a story mirrored in literature, religious doctrine, legends, and art. It uses archetypes and symbols from some of the world's major belief systems, religions, and studies to help seekers gain a better understanding of where we come from, where we are, and where we are headed.

Read Karen's dream interpretation book, "Dark of Night in the Light of Day: The Art of Interpreting Your Dreams," which is available on Amazon. ◆

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THE TRIP

By Willie Windwalker Gibson

I am often asked as a shaman and supernatural consultant if I've ever taken a spiritual journey. I tell them yes. I take out-of-body trips all the time. Sometimes I meet people I knew when they were alive. When you take a journey or want to take a journey, you have to make sure you're in charge and make sure you protect yourself when you're out of the physical body. You must make sure you have what I call the golden cord, as well as a guide ready to help you.

There are times when a friend has asked me to journey with them to find a loved one or just to see what it's like to be out of body in another realm. To take a journey is a serious matter; it's not to just have fun to get a kick out of doing it. The journey is a sacred thing, a spiritual thing, that joins the current plane with the spiritual.

It was the summer of 2012 when I got an email from a woman that asked me if I knew how to journey to the spiritual plane. I told her I could, and then she asked me if I could take her on an important journey she had to take. I asked her why she needed to journey. She went on to say she wanted to journey to go see if she could find her dead husband. When he passed five years earlier there was some things that they never got around to talking about, including that he had hidden a large sum of money and never told her were it was.

The woman went on to say she was having a hard time making ends meet, that the small insurance policy her husband had only had enough to bury him and a few thousand left for her. She told me that money was almost gone, and she needed to find what she thought was at least $50,000 in cash he had hidden.

I emailed the woman back and sat up a date and time for us to meet. A few days later, I went over to the woman's house in the east end of Louisville, Kentucky. I walked up to the house and knocked on the door. The door opened, and there stood a little, old lady. She looked to be in her '80s, was about five feet tall, thin, and had salt and pepper hair. She smiled and told me to come in.

I walked into the house. It was very well kept with lots of antique furnishings. I followed her into the living room and sat down on the couch. She sat beside me and said, "I am Kate Astor." I told her my name was Windwalker.

Kate told me that she had researched shamans in the area, and my name kept popping up. She said she knew I was the right one for the task at hand.

I told Kate that before we talked about the journey I had to know a few things. I asked if she had any heart problems, trouble breathing, or blood pressure problems. She said she did not.

The reason I asked this of Kate is because of her age. A woman of that age might not be able to handle a journey and return.

I then told Kate that although we would take the journey, I could not promise that we would connect with her husband. She told me she understood. I asked Kate what her husband's name was, and she answered, "Wade." I then told Kate that I had to do some things before we got started. She told me to go ahead.

I took a smudge stick from my medicine bag, lit it, and smudged the room. I did a prayer of protection and asked my guide to come be with us. I let a few minutes

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pass, and then I felt the energy of my guide come into the room.

I told Kate to sit in a relaxed state on the couch and close her eyes. She did so. I did the same. I then told Kate to hold my hand, she did so. I then told her to take four deep breaths, and then let them out; she did so. I then told her to envision a bright blue light all around her. I told her to feel the coolness of the light around her. I told her to feel that she was safe, that nothing would hurt her.

She told me she could see and feel the light. Then I told her that the light was starting to fade into a brilliant white light. Kate said she could see the white light. Then I told her the white light will slowly go away, and she said it was going away.

Kate and I were in a field of flowers. I asked Kate what her husband's name was again. She said his name was Wade. I told her to call for him. Kate yelled out, "Wade, Wade, come here. I am here."

We waited a few minutes, and I told Kate to call his name again. We waited, but nothing happened. I took Kate's hand, and we started walking. I saw a hill ahead of us, and we walked to the top of the hill. When we got to the top and looked down into a clearing, we could see a man sitting on a log. Kate yelled out, "That's Wade!"

We started walking down the hill to were the man was sitting. He had his back to us. Kate yelled out, "Wade!"

The man got up, turned around, and looked at us. He smiled and said, "Kate, what are you doing here?" Kate went over to Wade and hugged him. I stood there watching and waiting to see what would happen next. Kate asked Wade were he had hidden the money. Kate said she needed it badly. Wade looked at me and asked, 'Who's he?"

Kate said, "He was my guide to you and a friend."

Wade said, "We have to talk alone."

I walked away far enough for them to talk. Kate and Wade sat on the log and started talking. I could see that Kate was listening to Wade's words very closely. After about an hour, Kate and Wade got up. Kate hugged and kissed Wade, and then she walked away. Kate came up to me and said, "We can go now."

We started walking away, but I looked back to wave goodbye to Wade. He was gone.

Kate and I walked back up the hill and back to the spot we had started from. I told Kate to close her eyes, I took her hand, and said, "Kate, envision a white mist forming all around your body." She said she could see it. I told her to take four deep breaths and then open her eyes. She did.

We were back on the couch in the living room. I asked Kate if she found out what she needed to know. She looked at me and said, "Thank you, Windwalker, yes. And you can leave now."

I looked at her. Her energy was stern and guarded as if she felt threatened by me. I got up off the couch, said my goodbye, left, and went home.

When I got home, I sat down and thought about the trip that Kate and I had taken. As I thought of how cold she treated me at the end, I figured she thought I might want some of that money. I did not. I did wonder though if Wade did tell her where the money was or if he knew what a cold woman she was and he didn't tell her. In any event, I did what was asked of me, and she did meet Wade again.

If anyone ever wants to journey out there and you have a motive for doing so, just remember that spirits still have free will on the other side. ◆

New from *Paranormal Underground* columnist

Karen Frazier

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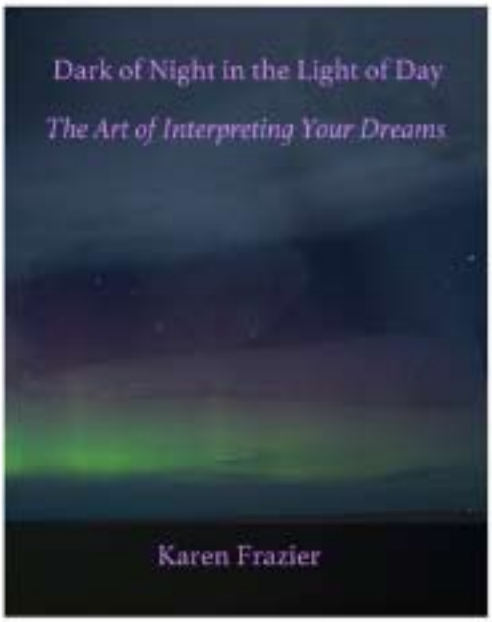

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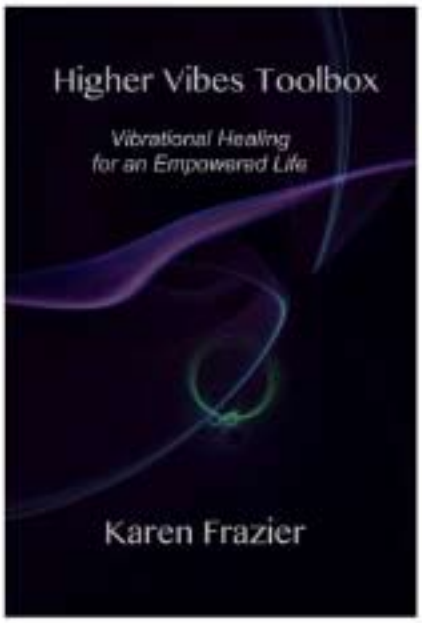
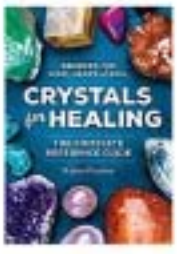
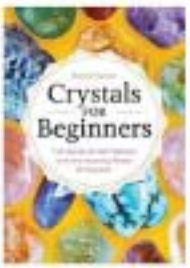


Also by Karen





AuthorKarenFrazier.com

6 Haunted Ships That Continue to Spook the Living

By Krystle Vermes, getspooked.net

In April, the *Queen Mary* made headlines when it was announced that Stateroom B340 — its most paranormally active room — would be rented out for a whopping $499 a night. Those who book the room receive a Ouija board, tarot cards, a crystal ball, and ghost hunting equipment.

Over the years, strange noises and shadow figures have been spotted aboard the *Queen Mary*, which was originally used during World War II. Nicknamed the "Grey Ghost," the ship has become known for its paranormal activity. But it isn't the only one. There are several ships that have grown in notoriety over the years for their passengers who never left. Let's take a look at some of the most haunted vessels to sail the Seven Seas.

USS Hornet

The USS *Hornet*, which has also been deemed the "Grey Ghost," originally saw action during World War II. It is rumored that many people took their own lives on the ship, fueling stories of ghosts roaming the vessel. Long-dead soldiers have been seen in uniform aboard the *Hornet*, and people have reported being touched or grabbed out of thin air.

USS Salem

The USS *Salem* was originally created for the Navy and officially commissioned in 1949. In 1953, it served as a hospital and a morgue for victims of an earthquake that rocked Greece. Today, apparitions have been spotted aboard the ship, and it still remains paranormally active.

USS Lexington

Like so many other haunted ships, the USS *Lexington* originally served in World War II. Nicknamed the "Blue Ghost," it was the target of many kamikazes and torpedo attacks. Many people have experienced unusual noises onboard the ship, such as unexplained screams and cries. Others claim to have felt uncomfortable chills or have fallen ill.

Star of India

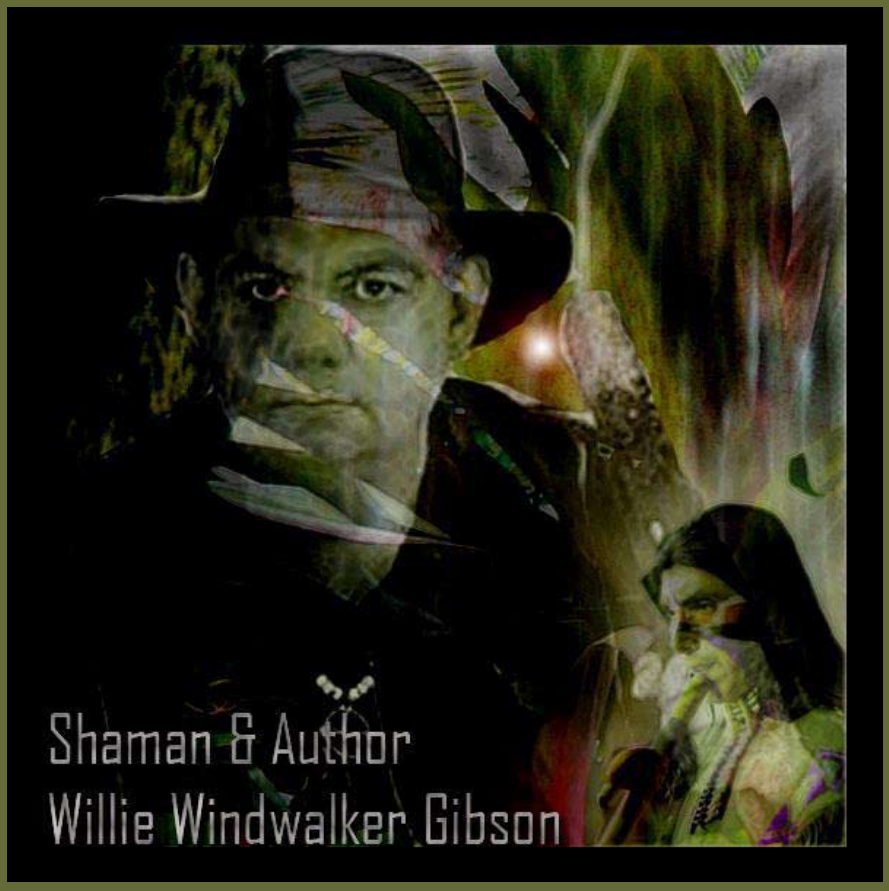
The *Star of India* was originally constructed in 1863, and spent its career sailing from Great Britain to India and New Zealand. Eventually, it became a salmon hauler between Alaska and California before retiring in 1926. The paranormal activity reported on the ship today is linked to a man who supposedly stowed away and lost his life while onboard. Ghost hunters have captured unexplained cold spots and several EVPs.

SS William Irvin

This lake freighter originally served the Great Lakes as a part of U.S. Steel's lake fleet in the mid-20th century. Today, former crewmembers — of the otherworldly variety — are thought to still linger onboard the ship. One individual who was killed in a boiler room accident is thought to haunt the vessel as well.

USS Yorktown

This aircraft carrier served in World War II for the U.S. Navy and saw most of its action in the 1940s. More than 100 men lost their lives onboard the ship, and some say many of them never left. Today, people spot shadow figures throughout the vessel, and full-bodied apparitions in uniform have been seen as well.◆



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One Spell to Bind Them All ...

An Interview With Michael M. Hughes

By Ian White

Michael M. Hughes is an author, speaker, and magical thinker. He is also the founder of Binding Trump, a magical and cultural phenomenon that has resonated spectacularly across the world. In fact, Michael and Binding Trump have inspired a Magic Resistance of people who are using their spellcasting and their spirituality to make a positive global change, a community that has only grown larger, stronger, and more determined since the very first ritual was held at midnight, February 24, 2017.

Michael's latest book, *Magic for the Resistance: Rituals and Spells for Change*, is due to be published in September. It was a pleasure to meet him, and I hope you find our conversation as fascinating and enlightening as I did ...

Michael M. Hughes

* * * * *

Q: What's your magical background?

Michael: Magic has always been a part of my life. I've always thought magically, and as a kid I believed that the world worked in magical ways and that you could influence the world in magical ways as well. A lot of people get over that when they grow up, but I never did.

I got my first deck of tarot cards when I was 11 years old — they were the James Bond 007 tarot cards that were created for the movie *Live and Let Die*, and I still have the deck! Also, it was the 1970s, and the whole culture was just soaking in magic and the supernatural, so it was a really huge part of my childhood.

My father was a very strict Catholic, but he took up transcendental meditation and was always picking up books on ghosts and UFOs, anything that fell under the umbrella of the paranormal. And I would grab those books and read them. We used to watch *In Search Of ...* with Leonard Nimoy, and one day a friend he worked with got hold of a 16mm copy of *Chariots of the Gods* and screened it at his house. I never thought any of it was strange or weird; it was just a part of my life growing up.

Q: How did you begin practicing magic?

Michael: I've always felt there's something especially magic about the practice of tarot, and as a kid I also did this weird sort of sigilization ... long before I even knew what a sigil was or how to use it magically, I would make a symbol for something I wanted and try to send energy into stuff.

When I was in my 20s, I started a Scott Cunningham Wicca-lite kind of magic, and then — as the Internet came into being, mostly via Usenet, bulletin boards, and dial-up — I discovered Chaos Magic and felt like I instinctively understood it because I'd been doing something similar as a kid, making these pseudo sigils or whatever they were. And then I discovered the Golden Dawn.

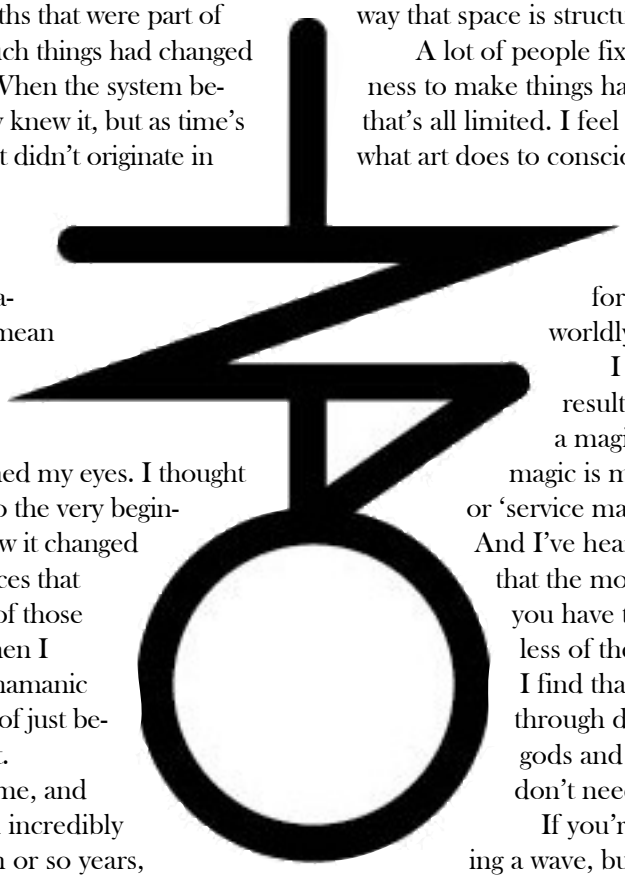
I think it's a normal progression for a lot of people who get into magic — start with a little light witchcraft and then maybe use some chaos magic, sigil techniques, stuff like that, and then be like "What the hell, I'm going to go head first into the Golden Dawn!" So that's what I

did, and I was a pretty heavy ceremonial magician for a number of years.

But then I had a Eureka moment where I was really trying to understand the correspondences of the tarot and the tree of life and why the trump cards were on the different paths, and I realized all the myths that were part of the Golden Dawn system, how much things had changed since it was originally developed. When the system began, they were using history as they knew it, but as time's passed, we've realized that the tarot didn't originate in Kabbalah, it originated in 15th century Christian Europe. Yes, it's fascinating that there are 22 letters in the Hebrew alphabet and 22 Major Arcana cards, but that doesn't mean they're necessarily connected.

So then I started to wonder how much of the rest of the system was valid, and it really opened my eyes. I thought what I needed to do was go back to the very beginnings of magic — how it started, how it changed through time, what were the practices that were used in antiquity, and which of those practices are still used now. And then I thought, why don't I also look at shamanic magic, and Eastern magic, instead of just being stuck in this Western magic rut.

It was a real wake-up call for me, and it started me on a path that's been incredibly rewarding. And for the past dozen or so years, I've been engaged in a deeply immersive study of cross-cultural magic, pulling together elements to try and create my own system based upon history, based upon things that exist cross-culturally, but also putting them to the test and seeing what works.



The Binding Trump sigil.

Q: So what's your definition of magic? What do you believe is at the heart of all magic?

Michael: I look at magic very, very broadly, and I think there's always an element of consciousness involved in it — alteration of consciousness or change in consciousness — but I also see magic working in things as diverse as art, music, and literature.

I also write fiction, and the process of writing fiction and feeling something coming through me that doesn't necessarily feel controlled, the idea of the muses or daimons or something like that, feels like a very magical process to me in the same way that when you read a book, you're looking at black squiggles on paper but yet it's changing your consciousness, it's creating this shared dream between you and the author that is always absolutely unique with every reader even though we're all looking at the same words on the page. That shared experience of being immersed in a story is very magical to me in the same way that really powerful art is also magic — religious art, like walking into a cathedral ... there's magic in the way that space is structured.

A lot of people fixate on magic as using consciousness to make things happen in the world, but I think that's all limited. I feel there's a lot of overlap between what art does to consciousness and the creation of magical consciousness. So, for me, theurgical magic is part of my practice, just practicing magic for spiritual purposes and not for worldly desires or things like that.

I find great value in practical results-driven magic, but I call myself a magical thinker. I like to believe that magic is much more than just 'results magic' or 'service magic'; it's about living a magical life. And I've heard other magicians say this too, that the more you practice magic, the less you have to practice magic. Now I do far less of the results magic than I used to, and I find that just by aligning myself spiritually through devotional acts, interactions with gods and spirits, and things like that, I also don't need to do as much practical stuff.

If you're attuned, it's very much like riding a wave, but the key is to know how to ride that particular wave so you're in the right place at the right time and the magic happens. I find that just by living a magical life and attuning yourself to the currents around you, the currents in your society and the currents in your personal life, that's the real trick. It's not having to do little rituals to make certain things happen, but to create your own magical existence, which then puts you in the right place at the right time to have things happen.

Q: Let's talk about Binding Trump. When you posted the first version of the binding spell on the Internet, you mentioned that it was created by yourself in collaboration with members of other Orders. Since then there have been several versions of the spell. Do you have a preferred one?

Michael: I think my favorite version is probably 2.2, but I was being a little cheeky when I wrote that original post because I was testing the water. In the origin story, I said I'd worked on it with lots of other people, but I honestly said that for artistic effect, because in almost any theoso-

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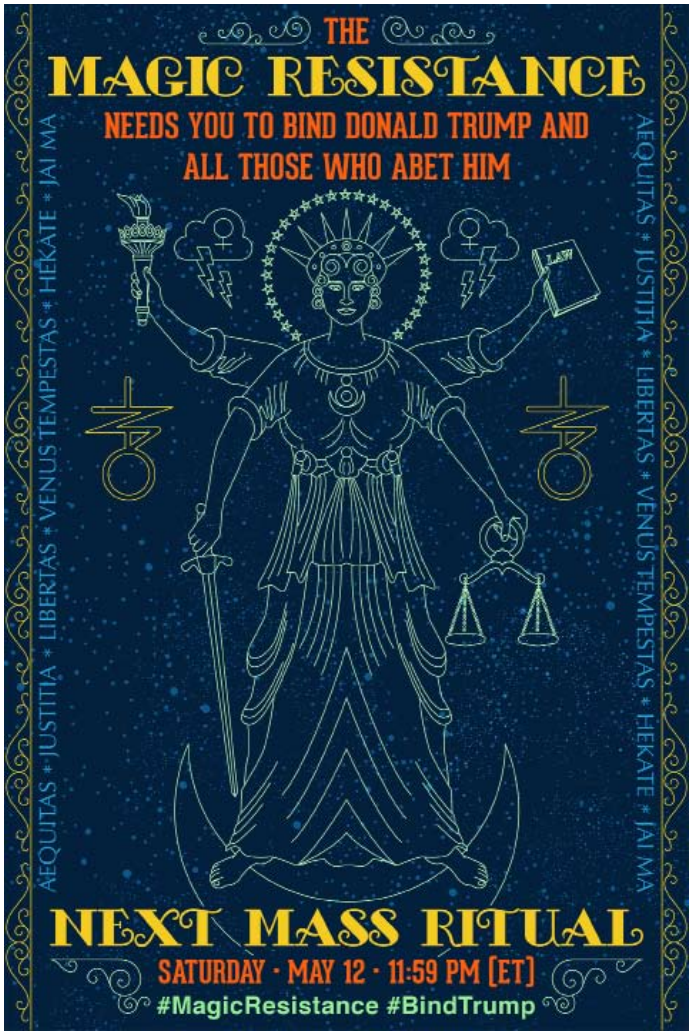
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Thousands of witches have cast binding spells against Donald Trump since he first took office. The primary goal of the #MagicResistance and #BindTrump movement is to keep Trump from harming the world. (Artwork by Karina Ruiz Diaz @Kitty_Lemiew)

phy or magical tradition, there are always hidden masters or superior avatars from another dimension!

I was also not sure of the reception I was going to get. I realized there would be some sort of blowback from fundamentalists and crazy Trump supporters, so I was kind of couching it a little bit in case the blowback was really harsh, and then I could say just say, "Well, I'm only a person putting this out there!"

The fact is that I wrote the ritual myself and then sent it to a few people in the magical community asking for feedback, suggestions for tweaking words, and that kind of thing. But then I started thinking this is something I've worked very hard on, and I've got to own this.

Q: Are you surprised by the way the ritual has taken off?

Michael: 'Surprised' would be an understatement! It happened so quickly that when it went viral, I was shocked — within a week of publishing the spell, I was being inundated with phone calls and emails from reporters.

When I published the spell, I thought a few dozen people might enjoy it, but the fact it's blown up as big as it has is overwhelming. By the time I did the first ritual, it was all over the national news, we live-streamed it on Facebook, and all kinds of news organizations wanted to film it, but I didn't feel comfortable doing that.

But one funny thing that happened — I got so tired of news producers saying they wanted to film people doing the ritual and asking me where people were going to be doing it that I said, "I hear a bunch of people are going to be outside Trump Tower doing the ritual at midnight, so why don't you just take your cameras and show up; ask if you can film them?" But in truth, I didn't know if that was actually taking place or not!

Well, after we finished the first ritual that night, my friend showed me his phone and said, "Take a look at this!" Sure enough, a bunch of witches had gathered outside Trump Tower in New York and also in Chicago, performing the ritual on the sidewalk! That's the extent of how big this thing got. I barely got any sleep. I was on the phone all day with different reporters. It was surreal.

Q: Can you locate the moment when it really exploded into the public consciousness?

Michael: All along it's really had its own energy, but a huge moment was when the musician Lana Del Rey tweeted about the spell with an image of herself looking witchy, saying something like the ingredients were available online. That created a major torrent of publicity and opened it up to people who might not otherwise have seen it on the news.

And then I also remember going into a store to buy wine for the ritual and when the woman ringing up the register asked if I wanted my receipt, I said, "Yeah, I need my receipt. I'm hexing Donald Trump tonight!" Without missing a beat she replied, "Me and my friends are doing that later; do you have the unflattering photo?"

That was the point when I thought life cannot get more strange than this. Here's a spell I put together and published online and now people all around the world are doing it, people who have never done magic or rituals of any kind are saying, "What the hell, I might as well give it a try'!" It was a genuine *Twilight Zone* experience.

Q: What prompted you to create the spell?

Michael: The reason I came up with the spell is because after Donald trump's election, it really felt like

reality had kind of broken, that his presidency and so many other horrible things were happening so quickly that all the norms had just suddenly been discarded. The word I kept coming back to was surreal. So I thought anything I could come up with to oppose this man and the people surrounding him had to be equally surreal. It couldn't just be a normal march or letter writing; it had to be something more.

And then I remembered the Yippies and how they tried to levitate the pentagon in the '60s because back then their reality was also broken, people were dying in Vietnam, and their world felt warped. I thought that's the kind of activism that we need; it has to be serious, but it has to be as equally bizarre as the times are. It has to be surreal. And that was really the incentive to do a spell.

I thought, what's more surreal than getting a whole bunch of people together to cast a spell on the president? That was the genesis, a response to the feeling that all of reality had just collapsed.

Q: Even in the U.K., where I live, when Trump won the election, it felt like the ground fell away beneath us.

Michael: And it's just kept accelerating; it hasn't stopped. Thanks to the 24/7 news cycle, there's always something happening; it's like a firehose of horror. That's actually what it felt like, being sprayed in the face by this unending stream of bad news. It still feels that way to a large extent, although the tide does seem to be turning. But where magic's concerned, you can't really quantify how it works — when you get the results you want, you say it was successful! That's just how magic is.

When Donald Trump is gone, we are going to take

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'Strange Magic's' Syd Moore Weighs in on Binding Trump Phenomenon

I asked author Syd Moore, who I interviewed in the December 2017 issue of *Paranormal Underground* magazine, and whose latest novel *Strange Fascination* has just been published, what her perspective is on the Binding Trump phenomenon. Here's what she had to say ...

Syd: I think the Binding Trump spell is really interesting because it's strikes me as being very much an echo of the magical effort that was in play during the Second World War. All across the U.K., housewives and crafters were quite frequently involved in magical acts and spells that attempted to foil the Third Reich's efforts.

In fact in March 1941, the *Reader's Digest* suggested that readers knit their own Hitler dolls and then stick pins in them whilst reciting this:

Istan, Come and help us
We are driving nails and needles
We are driving pins and needles
Into Adolph Hitler's heart
We are driving nails and needles
We are driving pins and needles
Cats will claw his heart in darkness
Dogs will bite it in the night.

Syd Moore

The binding spell, I think, is very similar, although certainly less aggressive! In fact it's much more benevolent. Trump is seen as being bound so he won't do harm, to himself or anyone else. Who knows whether it's working? Certainly in the Second World War Hitler did hear about some of the magical activity that was happening in England, and we know that it did worry him, because he was interested in the occult and had a belief in magic.

So, these rituals and spells did work to a certain extent, even if it was only psychological. I'm not sure if the binding spell is working on Trump, however. Possibly this is because, certainly on a public level, he doesn't seem to have any spiritual or magickal sensitivities.

But at the same time it has great power in terms of a symbolism — it's a positive act raising energy against what is perceived as a ford of negativity. I can see how it would empower some people. Plus I'm all for people acting together with focus — it is how change is affected.

Follow Syd Moore on Twitter at https://twitter.com/Syd-Moore1.◆

the full credit for driving him out of there! I say that with a tiny bit of cheekiness, but the people who are doing this spell have become such a focused engaged community, so supportive, and every time we do this ritual, more people come onboard with it. And out of this particular spell other spells have grown. The community that's coalesced around it is really humbling to me; it still blows my mind.

Of course, I take some credit for writing the spell and publishing it when I did, but it really feels like this marriage of activism and magic and spirituality was already taking form and the spell just allowed those elements to come together in a larger way. It's all about currents. I think a lot of magic is knowing the right time to do the right things, and this has absolutely been the most right-time/right-thing experience I've ever had.

These people were ready for the spell; they were feeling the need to merge their spiritual practices and their magical practices with ritual to do something positive and resist the dangerous surreality that's happening.

"This book provides spells, rituals, and fascinating historical examples designed to help you put your magical will to work to make the world a better place today."

Q: And it's not just about Trump is it? It's right across the world, in seemingly every part of the world it's caught the imagination of so many people. Is part of the reason it's entered the zeitgeist is because people are so tired of everything that's going wrong right now and want to feel empowered to do something about it?

Michael: From really early on, what a lot of people told me is that the ritual helps them to stay focused on the important things in their lives, the things they have to stand up for and fight against and resist. After each ritual, people post pictures of their altars on the Binding Trump Facebook group and talk about their experiences. It's amazing the energy they feel.

And so many people have said — and I can attest to feeling the same thing — that once they do the ritual it's like a liberation; it takes away the anxiety. Maybe a skeptic or hardcore materialist would say you're only making yourself feel better by doing the ritual, but I'd reply, well what's wrong with that? Because even if all this ritual did was help people feel better, feel a break, feel like they're taking their power back from this relentless firehose of horror — the norms of government being dismantled, environmental regulations being wiped away, white supremacists gloating about 'their' president ... if all the ritual did was help people feel like they're taking back some of their power, I'd still be happy.

And your question has hit on something else. You're watching all this from the U.K., but over there you're looking at Brexit. People in Europe are watching the rise of authoritarian governments and fascists and nationalists ... it's like a global mind virus, an ideology virus eating away at people, and it's not just in the U.S. Yes, it came to a head with this particularly awful individual, but he's just the locus of something much bigger, something that's embedded in human belief and human consciousness, and many of us who are opposing it — either magically or in more mundane ways — feel that we're really at an important point — we're at the edge of an abyss that's really a do-or-die moment for basic democratic principles and institutions, not to mention the environment.

We don't have a lot of time to fix these things, and I think that's what motivates so many of us. Many people see what's happening as a spiritual crisis. It's not just the old battles between communism and capitalism and things like that; this is about our spiritual identity and the principles we hold dear and believe in. It's a spiritual battle.

And the fundamentalists see it that way too; you know, the ones that believe President Trump is God's chosen prophet and all this insane crap. They think of it as a spiritual battle too, and in some sense they're correct. I just believe they're on the side of the darker end of the spiritual spectrum.

I practice magic, but I grew up Catholic. I still think the teachings of Jesus are some of the most beautiful moral teachings, and when you go back to Jesus' teachings, not necessarily what the priests and bishops and popes decided — the dogma that accreted onto Jesus's teachings — but his actual teachings of peace and love and forgiveness, I still consider them guideposts to how I live. And, of course, there's lots of similarities in other traditions too.

So it's really sickening to me to see people who call themselves Christians embracing the absolute antithesis of

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Aidy Kathleen & Karen Tibbits-Williams Share Binding Trump Rituals

Through the course of researching the interview with Michael M. Hughes, I've been fortunate enough to talk with several members of the Binding Trump community (who have all been, as Michael says, fantastic people to meet).

Here's Aidy Kathleen's thoughts, as well as her experience of the binding that took place on the night I interviewed Michael ...

Aidy Kathleen: I do the original ritual, which Michael crafted every month. I make vision boards for every single one and make sure I call in the highest good of all so that I know my intentions are aligned with the evolutionary impulse of the omniscient being who lives through all of us. I get quite creative with it. I want them to be relatable.

Aidy Kathleen

There is so much injustice in the world, it is easy to fall into despair, so this is my way of kindling my own light and sending it out towards people who are feeling hopeless in the situation they are in.

Donald Trump is a con man, and his rhetoric is not only idiotic, it is dangerous, divisive, and asinine. He is making a mockery out of what should be a position held by someone with the utmost integrity, wisdom, and compassion. That's why I, unlike other witches, have no problem hexing his administration.

I called that night's binding the calm before the storm ... the night of it, there was this incredibly eerie energy, a massive storm was brewing, and the next day we had this HUGE ice and snow storm like you would usually see in January.

I got extremely sick, but I'm hoping that it is cleansing me somehow and I will soon be in better shape than ever. But, yes, the energy was intense. It felt like mother nature responded to our intention.

* * * * *

Karen Tibbits-Williams lives in New Zealand, and she told me how she synchronizes the ritual and why it's important to her to take part in it ...

Karen Tibbits-Williams: Even though New Zealand is ahead of the USA in terms of time zones, I coordinate the timing of my own ritual to coincide perfectly with everyone else. So, this does mean I'm effectively starting the ritual a day ahead, owing to the date line ... but, in reality, I'm performing it in synch with everyone else.

Karen Tibbits-Williams

I'll admit that the afternoon isn't my preferred time for ritual. I would ordinarily wait until nightfall. However, there's a certain beauty and elegance in knowing the energies I raise in my binding are combining with those of others around the world, and especially in the U.S.

I am certainly aware of feeling connected with everyone else as it happens. It feels a little like being a part of a giant web that is woven around the globe ... a strong and powerful web of energy that entangles Trump and binds him from doing harm.

For me, it was painfully clear before and during the election process that Trump wasn't a fit candidate for presidency. His enormous ego, complete disregard for science (and for the truth in general), and utter lack of common decency spoke loudly to me, and I — and many of my friends — watched horrified as the election results came in.

And it became increasingly clear that the world was about to suffer an appalling, Trump-shaped catastrophe.

I came on board with the binding ritual as soon as I heard about it, feeling strongly that something should be done ... and by any and all means necessary. ◆

everything that Jesus spoke about. Everything He promoted, they're doing the exact opposite of it in His name. It's this toxic form of fundamentalist Christianity that was birthed around the Reagan era when Christianity became known as a particular right-wing brand of fundamentalist Christianity that merged itself with politics — that was really a crucial turning point, and I don't think we've ever recovered from it.

There are lots of amazing Christians out there doing beautiful work, helping other people, living a Christian life and really engaging with the principles that Jesus taught, but that's not where Christianity is in the United States nowadays. Nowadays it's a toxic anti-Christian perversion of Jesus' teachings, so it's funny that those people attack us as if we're doing something that's horrible and hellish and damnable when they're supporting a man who Jesus would be revolted by if He ever met him.

And do you remember when they laid hands on Trump before the election? The one thing I recall about that is they were all wearing these big gaudy rings ... what about poverty, what about the idea that ostentatious wealth contradicts everything that Jesus taught? It's so obvious to any right-thinking person that what passes for Christianity in the U.S. is in large part a foul perversion of Christ's teachings.

Q: You're not a witch, but the ritual has been embraced by a huge number of people in the witch community. However, certain Wiccans have also criticized the spell because of the three-fold law. They say what you're doing is dangerous.

Michael: Yes, I found that interesting, and I didn't expect as much of a backlash from the pagan and witch communities as I got. First of all, I didn't think it would be so popular that people would even know about it to criticize it (!), but as it began to spread, I did anticipate the fundamentalist Christian backlash, that the conservative Christian types would think what we're doing is diabolical.

I even put a verse about demons of the infernal realms in the ritual just to freak those people out because I'm of the belief that demons — and I use the platonic definition of demons — are in fact spiritual entities that are not necessarily good or bad. But even if I would want to summon demons (which I don't), it's not easy; you can't just say, "Hey demon, show up!" So I put that line in there to freak out the evangelicals. But the criticism from the pagan and witch community was a little surprising.

You mention the three-fold law? Initially, that was where most of the criticism came from, and my response to that was, first of all, I'm not a Wiccan so the three-fold law doesn't apply to me. And, second of all, this three-fold law doesn't go back to the Neolithic era or even the Middle Ages; it's something that Gerald Gardner came up with in the 1940s or 1950s when he was writing — I think — *High Magic's Aid*. So, the three-fold law isn't some kind of magic truism. And I'm not a witch; it doesn't affect me.

But I also tried to explain that a binding spell, as I view it, isn't a hex or a curse where you're wishing ill-will on someone. All you're doing is trying to restrain them from doing harmful things. Historically, magic has always been used for all sorts of purposes. If I could slap a lawsuit on Donald Trump, or write the White House a letter,

or get enough people together to get him to stop doing something — why shouldn't I use a spell to accomplish the same thing? If you're doing something to the best of your ability to defend the people and things that you care about, or stop something that you perceive as harmful, I don't see anything malign in that. And the way I see the Trump binding spell is that we're attempting to stop him from doing damage. He's already doing damage. Let's try to minimize it; let's try to prevent the more egregious harmful things that are happening.

I think people get weirded out by magic because they don't understand how it works, and it feels like you're meddling with the nature of the Universe, but you do that in other ways every day. So the way I look at any kind of magic that might be seen as malefic or negative is, would I use other means to do the same thing if I could? And if I could, I'm fine with doing magic to stop it. That's just my personal belief and understanding based on my experience, and it's fine if others disagree with that.

> "I think people get weirded out by magic because they don't understand how it works."

The other thing is, there was a lot of backlash from people in the magical community — and I won't name names — who were negative about everything: "Oh it'll never work ... it's not the right kind of magic ... you're supposed to do magic in secret," and on and on. Who wrote this rule book? Where are those rules written in stone? It's OK if this is your personal belief or your traditional belief, but I don't share those beliefs, and if you want to say this spell is not successful or it's not going to work, just look at the number of people doing it every month. Look how it's growing; look how it's spread. That is magic.

It caught the public consciousness; it changed consciousness; it started a Movement. People were waiting for something like this, and even though Trump's still in office, it's created this community of people who have married their mundane activism with a more spiritual form of magical activism. You can't deny it's already been successful.

Q: To me, it feels like a natural modern evolution of the ancient cones of power… it creates a positive unified intention that may take time to work, but no one can dispute that on some level it's having an effect.

Michael: I agree. Even if Gardner made the cone of power story up, which some people believe, but I kind of take him at his word that it happened as he wrote it, it still created a powerful myth. There's a similar story about Captain Drake who apparently used sea witches to keep the Spanish Armada from invading. And when I was researching my book, I found out about people using poppets to try to hex Queen Elizabeth 1.

One of my favorite stories happened in the 1940s — a group of people in the state of Maryland had started hexing Hitler, and they invited the author William Seabrook, who had just written a book about witchcraft, to help them do it better. Seabrook joined them, and they went to a cabin, dressed a mannequin up in Nazi uniform, and painted a Hitler moustache on it, did all this Voodoo magic, drank lots of rum, and drove nails into the mannequin before chopping off its head and burying it.

When I was researching that story, I discovered an old *New Yorker* article about it, where they interviewed William Seabrook and he said the most important thing about the ritual is that more people do it, that groups of people do it, and that the news gets back to Hitler and he finds out we're doing this. Seabrook wanted people to hold Hitler hexing parties! And that completely mirrors the Trump spell, which I think is a fascinating parallel.

If there had been social media in the 1940s, maybe Hitler hexing would have gone viral, because that was ultimately Seabrook's goal. So I thought the similarities between then and now were uncanny.

Q: And now the Magic Resistance has evolved out of Binding Trump?

Michael: The term 'Magic Resistance' was another cheeky thing I came up with because I used to play a lot of Dungeons & Dragons when I was a kid, and you could use magic resistance to defend yourself against all forms of magic. I thought what a great term — Magic Resistance! — and it completely caught on.

And it's come to describe a whole variety of actions and spells that people are doing. Culturally, the Magic Resistance was already in the wings waiting to happen, and the binding spell just allowed it to have a name and come out in the public consciousness. But so many people have told me the term catalyzed the way they were feeling.

Q: There is so much darkness happening across the world at the moment. I sometimes wonder if a negative tulpa has been created and it's the people who are binding Trump and forming the Magic Resistance who are all that's holding it back?

Michael: That's an interesting take on it. I think people who are spiritually attuned, who are socially conscious and understand history, can see really disturbing parallels to other dark times in history in the same way that the rise

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of Nazism also felt like a really palpable tulpa or cloud of darkness that was way beyond the norm. To me, it's fascinating that the side which is pushing against growth and evolution and compassion are the side that's calling themselves Christians and the people who are actually embracing compassion, decency, love, and justice are witches. What a wild wonderful world we're living in!

When I step back and take a larger view of it, I'm still shocked at the strange dynamic of it all. And if you talk to people who are doing this spell, they really do feel like the light bearers, the ones who are pushing for the evolutionary side of consciousness and the social aspects of our species, expanding our circle of compassion versus tightening and crushing that compassion and looking for scapegoats and people to hurt and blame. So it's the witches who are carrying the torch for the things that I consider Christian principles. It's truly fascinating.

"It's the witches who are carrying the torch for the things that I consider Christian principles. It's truly fascinating." —Michael M. Hughes (Photo by @Ghost_Lisa via Twitter)

Q: Are we on the cusp of a global understanding of magical thinking?

Michael: I'd like to believe that and, to a large extent, I do. I feel like materialism is hitting its death throes in a lot of ways, the way people are leaving organized religion but still seeking some sort of spiritual satisfaction and connection in their lives.

Have you heard of the scientist Dean Radin? He's just written a new book called *Real Magic* — it's a scientific approach to magic — and he's saying that when we test magic with science, which we have done in the field of parapsychology, magic is real. And this is from a guy who's a physicist and runs the Institute of Noetic Sciences. So I really feel that we're seeing the death throes of the reductionist materialistic idea that there is nothing beyond our meat sacks.

And I really think there's a resurgence of interest in magic; I see it all the time — the fact that I'm writing this book, that this Trump spell caught on ... there's so much evidence to me that there's a real thirst for not just being a spiritual person, but for using spirituality in a practical manner, thinking magically and thinking, *No, we are bigger than what science tells us, but we're also bigger than what the Pope or our Church tells us.* I think the idea that life needs to be re-enchanted is a very powerful thing for a lot of people.

Q: Let's talk about your upcoming book, *Magic for the Resistance: Rituals and Spells for Change.* Is it still due to be released in September?

Michael: Yes, September's still the launch date! It's being published by Llewellyn, and they've been a really fantastic publisher to work with. Before I was published by Random House, but I'm a small fish in the Random House universe — with Llewellyn they saw the potential of this book and bumped it ahead of everything else, because they realized that this is a time-sensitive piece and it needs to come out before the general election.

I had to write the entire book in a month, which is truly the most grueling thing I've ever done. Some writers call a deadline their 'book jail.' I called this my book death march because that's what it felt like! I was working with so little sleep and with so much research to do, but I'm very pleased with how it's turned out.

The book really lays out magical guidelines to assist with all sorts of issues — for the MeToo movement, there's a spell in the book for people who have been sexually abused, as a way to bind their abuser from hurting them anymore. There's a Black Lives Matter spell. There's a spell for healing of the Earth. There are spells to give your candidate a boost in the election. And that's only naming a few.

My aim was to write a very practical book in the hope that when people read it, and read through all the spells,

they'll see the framework of how I do magic. It's like a teaching tool, as well as a practical help. At least, that's what I hope it will be.

Q: Did you find out anything new about your own practices while writing the book?

Michael: I don't think I reshaped any of my own ideas, but I was shocked by the parallels in history and realizing that this is really nothing new. People have been resisting authority with magic since ancient times, and all I did was hook into a current that goes back to antiquity but is surfacing in a different population in a different way. If anything, writing the book reaffirmed my understanding of magic.

I was into ceremonial stuff for a long time, heavy cabalistic magic, but over time I tried to shave away the 'esoteric cruft' and go for the real simple practices. Now my magic is very folk-magicky in a lot of ways; there's no waiting until the proper planetary hour or using the Sephirot or anything like that. It's very simple intention, very simple tools — candles, images, words, incense — and it's embedded in folk magic traditions more so than Ceremonial or Wiccan, but yet it shares a lot with many other different traditions too.

But I'd just like to say that the creativity of people who are doing the ritual is incredible. After each binding, after I ground myself and get back to a normal head space, I go online and look at the pictures of people's altars, and the beauty of them is just astounding. Some are very simple, and some are really ornate, but most of them are extraordinary. The creativity of this group, of the people who are doing this ritual, is humbling and mind-blowing all at the same time.

I've also been online in lots of different communities over the years, and the warmth and supportiveness of the community is like something I've never seen. I've never been part of a group that has so little friction, that is so concerted in their efforts and so supportive and helpful when other people ask questions. I've also got great moderators, who are conscientious and vigilant and fantastic in what they do. It's been a really beautiful experience.

Q: You've also published horror fiction. Are you working on anything at the moment?

Michael: I do have something, but I've had to put it aside for this new book, so I'm not sure when I'll get back to it. It's going to be a very gritty urban noir with elements of magic in it. I jokingly call it 'Harry Potter meets The Wire!' I also may have another magic book after this one, but it will be more of a beginner's guide to magic with the working title *The Art of Magical Living*.

The binding spell has really crossed over with a lot of people who are magic-curious but have never done

any kind of magic before, so this book will show them that magic isn't scary. It will almost be a self-help book that demonstrates how you can make your life better with practical magic. So I'm keeping my fingers crossed that might be happening too.

Q: Finally, I've got to ask about *The Blackwater Lights* trilogy… those are fabulous works of imagination, but they're obviously grounded in at least some kind of reality. Did you have an experience that inspired you to write them?

Michael: Yes, actually I did! I had a very, very strange UFO sighting experience in 1990, and after thinking about that over the years, what it could have been, that it was also tied to dreams and felt like something much deeper than just spaceships flying around ... it really just bubbled and festered inside my head and coalesced with other fixations I had, like a deep interest in conspiracy theories and conspiracy realities, things like the U.S. government project MK Ultra. And it unspooled in ways that I wasn't expecting, and the book's changed as my understanding of magic changed.

There are also a lot of Easter eggs in there for occultists or people who study the darker aspects of U.S. intelligence agency malfeasance and occultism, so it was really a lot of fun, a whole grab-bag of stuff that fascinates me. The story just happened, and I went with it!

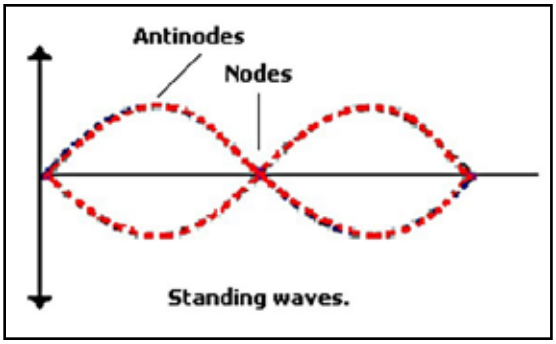
For more information about Michael M. Hughes, visit https://www.michaelmhughes.com/ and https://twitter.com/michaelmhughes. The official Bind Trump Facebook page is at: https://www.facebook.com/groups/OfficialBindTrump/. ◆

The Twilight of Time Travel

By Maria Anna van Driel, NextTruth.com

In the beginning, there was only darkness, and then ... BANG! ... an endless expanding of the existence of time, space, and matter. Every day new discoveries are unlocking the mysterious, mind-blowing, and dangerous secrets of a place we call ... the Universe. Then, in 1905, Albert Einstein published his theory of relativity, which makes time travel an open question.

Have you ever asked yourself how we came to know everything that we now know? How a supercomputer we call "our brain" is gaining this information and altering it mathematically in an understandable concept for us to form an image (sometimes with crazy forms of density,) as well as how this same information had the chance to devolve into a controlled and synthetic form creating quantum holograms?



I bet you never did, I bet you just accepted this most complex form of transmitting information as an uncomplicated short-distance language.

But did it ever occur to you that this information, hitting the neurons in your brain, could have come from a far more remote place? Hearing the word remote, you probably assume that I'm speaking of enormous distances like miles, kilometers, or even as big as lightyears. But remote in this can also occur in a subatomic scale.

A Ph.D. from CERN's project CMS said:

We are creating high-energy densities by colliding protons which are similar to the very early Universe. Therefore the cosmologists are interested in the results here at CMS, because they get new points of physics results for a moment they cannot observe by looking in the stars.

The cosmologists have additional points of the Universe depending on the energy of the collisions, and from that they can exploit the history and the models they have for the developments of the cosmos.

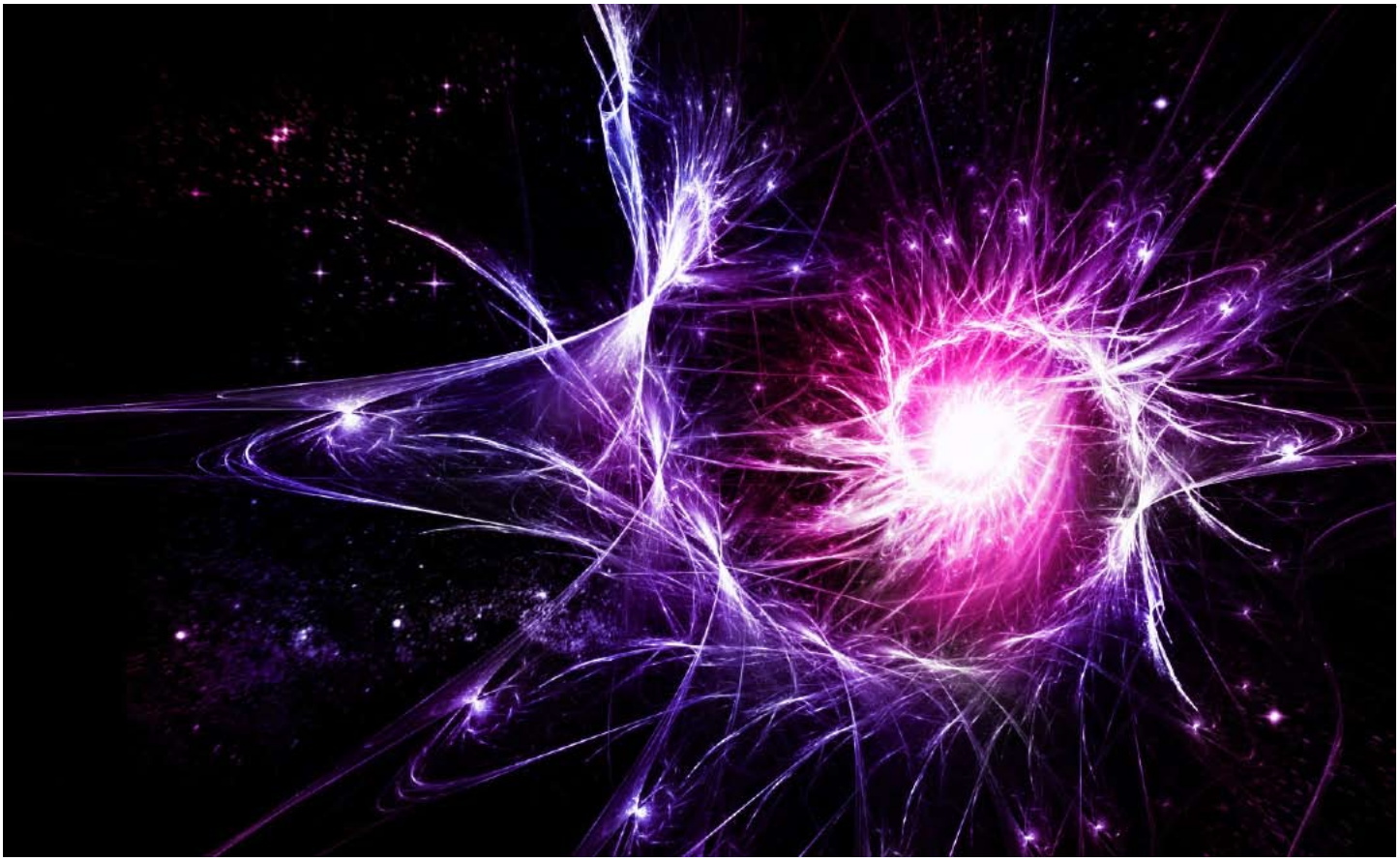
This is very interesting because here the smallest scales and the larger scales meet.

We are doing research that is important for the largest scales.

And this is, in my point of view, so interesting about physics because it has to cover the very smallest scales up to the largest scales.

Now, listen to the 56-minute YouTube version of a lecture from Apollo Astronaut and founder of the Institute of Noetic Sciences Edgar Mitchell, titled "Quantum Holograms and remote viewing." It will give you an even better understanding about this crazy form of absorbing information on smaller scales and how it is possible for your brain to communicate with, for instance, a drop of blood or a strand of hair.

One of the secrets in this are standing waves – better known by many as nothing is happening at all. Skipping the data and complex mathematical equations in, for example, phase conjugate adaptive resonance, it appears the brain may be using these crazy fields to communicate without synaptic transmissions, gap junctions, or diffusion. An example somewhere in your 3D and 4D surrounding is an object shining like a bright light but you can't see it



clearly due a misty cloud swirling in front of the object. Think of this mist as a vibration creating a distortion in the visible spectrum.

This is how the majority of the world population is looking into the world. They know it's there but can't see it clearly. Unfortunately, this also creates an effect of some people mocking others due their personal rejection of scientifically proven behaviors and reactions of, for example, particles and waves carrying information as it is demonstrated in hyper-entanglement (a term in quantum physics for slicing up and entangling each photon pair into multiple dimensions, allowing each photon pair to carry much more data).

Experiencing any effect in this natural phenomenon, like for instance knowing something you could not have known, is not you being or becoming crazy; your built-in supercomputer is like radar, if you like, communicating more clearly with its surroundings.

When both waves from the brain and the bright object are interacting, they form still waves for you to see through the mist, which makes the light of the object hitting you as clear as can be. Even though it was thought by science to be a big no-no for more than 75 years, this effect is real and happening!

The eerie part in this is that these particles involved in high-energy interactions can definitely interact with a biological system, such as that of a human, faint but still. Most of these interactions are happening through electromagnetism, especially at low energies (Human Energy Field or Aura).

As I said earlier, the brain has the possibility to transmit a wave that is similar to the one coming from behind that misty cloud creating a distortion in the visible spectrum. Now think of the following ... creating a clear image of what is behind the near distortion, a still wave is necessary for you to see it.

"The transmission of information due to hyper-entanglement creates holographic images."

But what if we are talking about an object that is so remote you have no possibility of seeing it at all, meaning on a subatomic scale? Well, you have to create an immense high energy that is not so easy to create with the natural weak and unstable brainwaves. It is also not enough to have energy to spread out over a large region; it has to be concentrated in a specific and small region. (Think of, for example, remote viewing where you aim your energy on one particular object or person.)

High-concentrated energy like this also has the capability to create spontaneously new particles ... and as some of you know, energy can create mass. (Similar effects in creating new particles we see at the CERN during the collisions.)

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Now what IF you could use this kind of Standing Wave to create bigger time tunnels (wormholes) and build a bridge for information to travel through space by increasing the frequency of that wave (or waves) in which the node-points are starting to become visible and touch each other. A point where no time and no energy as we know it exists ... does this sound familiar to you?

To most people this will sound like "The Hereafter." To me it sounds like Einstein-æther theory, which is a generally covariant modification of general relativity, which describes a space-time endowed with both a metric and a unit time-like vector field. So there is a possibility of traveling through time, only not in a manner you thought it could be!

Using sound waves, or in this case almost undetectable points in standing waves, which can create a crazy place where time and space, as we understand it, do not exist anymore, gives us a possible opportunity to open a cosmic connection to remote places by bending the "arrow of time."

Some will be skeptical and say this is all crazy talk. Some will say it is plausible, while others will say it is a fact. But regardless of what you believe, the effects of a natural phenomenon in transmitting information like so ... can be felt and received!

A reaction from Warwick's physics professor and Ph.D. Bill Murray during an interview concerning project ATLAS, black holes, and plasmas:

We know there is much we do not know, and the discussion of discovering black holes or even time tunnels was not impossible — just rather unlikely. When you are pushing beyond what is known, it is right to be excited. When you are claiming a discovery, it is right to be cautious.

Our best theory of quantum gravity, string theory, requires these extra dimensions, and even the old general relativity seems to allow time travel! But it has to be done responsibly ... we should not conjure up an expectation of such things, just a faint possibility."

Is it really just a faint possibility? What if we think of the idea that the Universe transmits information due to an effect in hyper entanglement and using the nodes of a standing wave in order to create its own survival system in which it evolves? If so, we can almost say the Universe possesses a strange form of intelligence.

One of the most well-known ideas concerning wormholes (time tunnels) was born around 1935 due to Albert Einstein's theories in which he and his colleague Nathan Rosen realized that the general theory of relativity allowed the existence of bridges that could link two different points in space-time.

Theoretically these Einstein-Rosen bridges, or wormholes, could allow something to tunnel instantly between great distances — but they are extremely tiny, so a so-called space traveler wouldn't fit.

But how real are these so-called doors?

Can we truly walk the grounds of what once was? And what will peer back out of these dark shadows from the past? Is it possible to create a similar effect with brain-waves? ... If so, this phenomenon will have to bear terms like visualization, telepathy, or remote viewing/sensing/healing.

A Ph.D. at CERN's project CMS, during a private conversation concerning time tunnels, said, "... No not here, not observed ... these are all vague theoretical interactions! We have not seen any event where big energy has escaped ... we are looking for them, of course, but haven't seen them."

However, time travel is definitely a possibility when we look at the Einstein-Rosen Bridge, something that we better understand as, for example, telepathy — a remote mind-to-mind communication due to aiming high energy, sound, and magnetic waves in a specific and small region where the brain can receive and translate it into images and words, or sometimes even as an emotion.

This natural phenomenon, which is not fully understood yet, is being described as having no scientific evidence that this "power" truly exists and has been labeled as pseudoscience for a long time. But it is more fact than

it is fiction ... transparent ghostly apparitions can be projected by an effect in a holographic duality, as well as due to infra-sound, as British engineer Vic Tandy discovered.

Time travel was already discussed by Einstein, Bohr, Tesla, and Schrödinger. This was known as, for example, the aether theory and today explained as the heavens in religion, a place where the fourth state of matter (plasma), known as echo-plasma in the paranormal world, rapidly arises as it is vaporizing.

> **Einstein-Rosen bridges, or wormholes, could allow something to tunnel instantly between great distances.**

It is being said by some that thanks to the efforts of literally thousands of scientists, we no longer have faith in paranormal events. But science doesn't explain or debunk neither one's experience nor one's faith. It helps to understand how real the unexplained is ... and even if it is a rare phenomenon, it's more real than most people think it is.

And for those who are willing to let their imagination roll, there is a glimmer of hope in at least one place. It is where space, time, and the nature of existence itself meet inside the biggest and most complex machine ever created by man. It is the newest tool used in physics, called The Large Hadron Collider, having the role of studying the frontier of physics. It is a machine that is expected to fill in the blanks and maybe one day lead us to new laws of physics that will help us determine if time travel is at least possible.

Many physicists working with the projects at CERN believe these understandings, as well as the answers they need to fill in these blanks, are right around the corner. On the other hand, it could be that this problem is in fact harder than thought to be and that human civilization does not live long enough to figure out how it works.

Now whether one is looking for a scientific explanation concerning time travel or not, we all dream about literally walking through time once in a while. Some prefer to participate in the daily activities of the residents of Pompeii, some would like to listen to a speech of Julius Caesar, and others would like to take a peek into the future.

Will we ever use electromagnetic plasma (also known as electron clouds) as a doorway and connect two distant regions in the Universe? And has the bio-suit of MIT undergone enough progress to offer a positive result in this?

Will we ever walk the fabrics of time? ◆

The Burying Point

By Jennifer Maimone

It's been over five years since I'd experienced Salem, Massachusetts' oldest burial ground, the Burying Point. It was smaller than I remembered, and the air was a lot warmer. Of course, that was to be expected. I had returned at the end of September, a drastic difference when compared to December's dead of winter.

The first time I had been to the Burying Point, snow had covered the hallowed ground, hiding the smaller tombstones that couldn't reach above the unceasing snowfall. A blanket of white had stretched from one end of the cemetery's walls to the next, making the spot seem isolated from the rest of Salem. No one else was there that day except me and the chilling wind.

It was as if I had been plucked out from my time period and placed in an era when Salem had not yet become the tourist destination it is today.

I remember how mystical the place seemed as I walked along its perimeter, not wanting to disturb the unblemished snow with my footprints. It was so calm and tranquil that it quickly became one of my top five favorite cemeteries I've visited.

Fast forward five years, and once again I found myself standing at the Burying Point, but this time I was not alone.

There were clusters of families and tour groups herding along, each trying to view whatever tombstone their tour guide was directing their attention to. I immediately got the impression that they were hoping to see one belonging to an accused Salem witch.

They may have been surprised to learn only two people directly involved in the Witch Trials were laid to rest at the Burying Point. The first was Mary Cory, a woman who was accused and later executed as a witch, and Justice John Hathorne — one of the most noted Salem Witch Trial judges. Some may also know him as the great-grandfather of Nathaniel Hawthorne, the author of *The Scarlet Letter*.

The Burying Point, established in 1637, is the oldest burying ground in the city of Salem. Those buried at the site include Justice John Hathorne, an ancestor of Nathaniel Hawthorne and one of the judges in the Witchcraft Court.

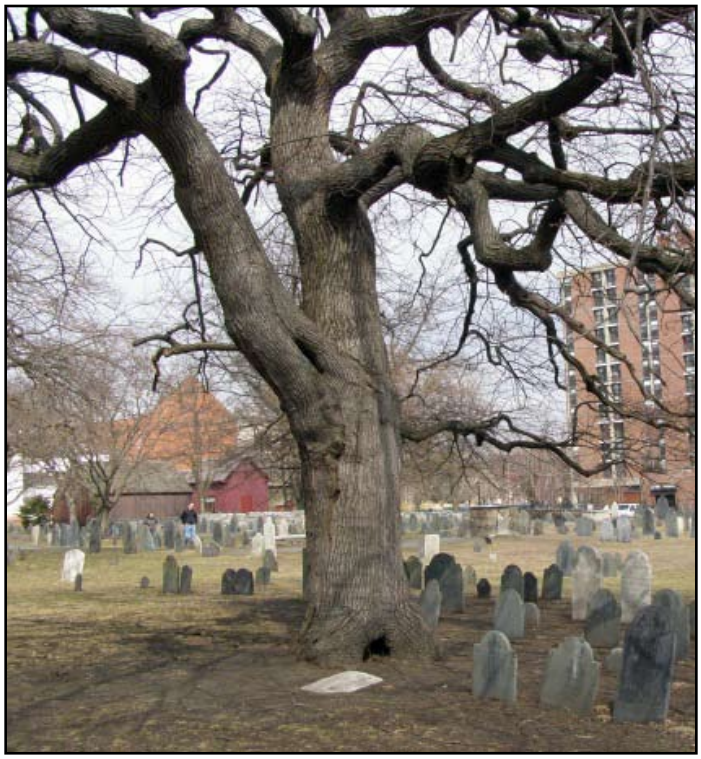
All other executed victims of the Witch Trials were either buried elsewhere or lost to history. As an act of remembrance, Salem dedicated a memorial to them in 1992 adjacent to the cemetery. The memorial is made of 20 granite benches (not to be used for sitting), and lists each person's name, date of death, and manner of their execution.

I was glad to be back at the Burying Point, and to once again walk through part of Salem's history. It rekindled my fondness for cemetery walking, to see about visiting the famous cemeteries in my own back yard (i.e., Hollywood Forever Cemetery and Mountain View Cemetery).

For me, going to the cemeteries isn't about trying to take a selfie with a famous person's grave or hoping to catch a glimpse of an ethereal spirit. It's about walking through a place of rest, where you can really feel the peace of those at rest all around you. It is also about remembering people's names, and perhaps even paying a visit to someone's grave — even if you've never known them.

I recommend anyone to give cemetery walking a try. Just always remember to tread along with respect.

Do you have a paranormal experience that you'd like to share with our readers? If so, email editor@paranormalunderground.net to share your experience. ◆



The Burying Point cemetery in Salem is open from dawn to dusk and is free to enter.

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Investigating Quito/Drummonds Fire Department Station #2

By Bob Fountain, SpectralTech.org

The first things that come to mind when you think of police, firefighters, or paramedics is that they are no-nonsense, down-to-earth people, who basically are afraid of nothing. And that would be correct. These are the individuals who run toward danger while everyone else is running away. The police and firefighters that I know are down-to-earth and fearless people, but that doesn't mean every once a while they don't get creeped out.

In March 2015, my team Spectral Tech was contacted by the Quito/Drummonds Volunteer Fire Department in Drummonds, Tennessee. Apparently, several of the firefighters had experienced things they couldn't explain at the station. They contacted one of our members, Mickey Materna, who happens to have been the Fire Chief at the Quito fire station, to coordinate an investigation by Spectral Tech.

The fire station is a small facility that houses an ambulance and a few fire-fighting vehicles. It has a kitchen, lounge, and sleeping quarters on one side of the vehicle bay and a conference room and an area reserved as a way station for the Sheriff's Department on the other side.

We sat down and interviewed the firefighters who were on duty and were given a tour of where some of the occurrences had taken place. Some of the claims were that there was a constant feeling of being watched in the sleeping quarters, and a few of them felt the sheets being pulled off of them during their sleep.

One of the men told us that he was standing outside the back of the station smoking and saw a little girl standing in the middle of a field that leads to a community park. He said she was just standing there and was staring at him. The disturbing thing was that it was 3:00 a.m. in the morning. When he looked away for a second, she was gone.

They had also heard doors that were hard to open or close slam shut when no one was anywhere near them.

At the Quito/Drummonds Volunteer Fire Department in Drummonds, Tennessee, some of the fire fighters reported a constant feeling of being watched in the sleeping quarters, and a few of them felt the sheets being pulled off of them during their sleep.

Rational Explanations

We began our investigation by sweeping the whole building for random EMF leakage and found that the sleeping area had an abundance of EMF permeating this area. Our K-II meters would light up as close as a foot away from some of the receptacles. And the main circuit breaker box, sitting right over one of the beds, lit up our equipment even more so.

Most of the beds were close or right next to where these strong EMF signals were captured and could have easily explained away their feelings of being watched, as well as feelings of sheets being pulled or seeing things nor really there. Many people who are sensitive to EMF experience these kinds of effects when exposed to them,

During an investigation at the Quito/Drummonds Fire Department, Spectral Tech caught a voice on a digital recorder that said, "I'm in trouble." They later heard the same thing on a spirit box. The team later found out that a person had died in that ambulance in transit earlier that day.

and sleeping in beds being bathed in these energies could account for many of the claims.

When walking through the truck bay, you could feel slight cross breezes, and if one of the large doors was partially open and a strong wind came in, it would explain the heavy doors slamming shut.

Initially, it seemed like we could sum it up as overactive imaginations and explain to them that there was nothing paranormal to fear.

Not So Fast ...

Although we had decided that a majority of their claims could be explained away, we decided to set up some of our equipment and do some EVP sessions. We went to an area of the sleeping quarters where we had previously gotten no EMF readings and placed a digital recorder and a K-II meter on one of the beds.

When we asked if anyone was there, the K-II immediately lit up to red in response to questions being asked. We then decided to place two different EMF detectors on the bed, and they also started to light up in unison. On review of this session, all we got on the recorder was some unintelligible words.

We also caught a voice on a digital recorder that said, "I'm in trouble," when we walked past the ambulance parked in the bay. When walking past it the second time, we heard the same "I'm in trouble" on a spirit box we were holding. We later found out that a person had died in that ambulance in transit earlier that day. Apparently, he hadn't realized he was in spirit yet.

Since we wanted to further investigate what was setting off the K-II meters on the bed we had placed them on, we were invited back to try and find a material source that caused them to light up in unison. We used our two-way radios, listened to radio messages coming into the fire station, but nothing caused them to go off again.

We simply could not explain why they were all lighting up in unison during the previous investigation. We did get a voice on our recorder that said, "Troy slept here," and we later found out that one of the firefighters named Troy did indeed use that bed when he was at the station.

One of the firefighters told us about the young sister of another firefighter who was accidently killed at home many years before in a gun-related incident and wondered if it was her spirit that they saw in the field. We quickly dismissed this, pointing out that she would have appeared to her brother, not just randomly showing up for someone to see. Only one person ever saw this little girl, so we never used it as a point of evidence.

Tragic History

Our last visit to the fire station was earlier this year. We learned that one of the paramedics was found dead in the lounge of the station. He had said he wasn't feeling well and went home. Apparently, he came back to the station while the others were away and died on the couch.

One of the firefighters wondered if he knew that he was dying and came back to the station so his family wouldn't see him die at home. They wanted us to see if we could get a response from him and possibly learn what prompted him to return to the station.

→

We did an EVP session but didn't think we got any responses from him. We did get an unintelligible male voice interjecting corrections about some of the history of the site. If it was indeed the paramedic, he was not going to enlighten us on his reason for returning to the fire station. It could have been that he was just drawn there to visit his comrades who were talking about him.

The fire station was built where a house once sat years before. It was a house where a man was found dead at the foot of his back-porch steps. He had been dead for several days before anyone found him. Two deaths at the same site, by people who were found after they had died, does not seem like it would leave a positive vibrational imprint on the environment.

Toss of the Coin

Although this investigation has spanned a three-year period, just as much could be explained away as not.

Have massive doses of EMF radiation caused these firefighters to imagine their bedding being pulled off of them and seeing a little girl standing in a field in the middle of the night? Or is the man that died on this very site long ago trying to get them out of his house?

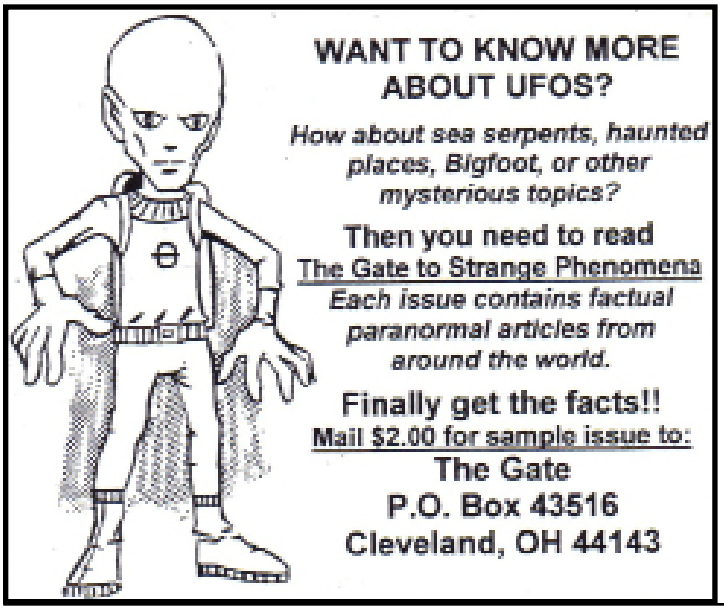
Was it simply a little ghost child playing on the swings in the park that decided to walk over and see the fireman standing outside smoking a cigarette?

Could those who didn't survive their final ambulance ride still be waiting at the station for help?

Some of the firefighters said they do not feel anything unusual, but others still think they are not alone. Sometimes it's just a toss of the coin as to what we observe and conclude.

Unfortunately, that is the nature of many of the investigations we all encounter at some point.◆

During an EVP session at the Fire Department, the Spectral Tech team captured an unintelligible male voice interjecting corrections about some of the history of the site. Could it have been the paramedic who was found dead in the station's lounge?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'Ace' — Book 8 of the Zodiac Dragon Guardians Series

By Kim Faulks

Q&A by Michelle M. Pillow, MichellePillow.com

Kim Faulks is a *USA Today* bestselling author of dark paranormal romance. She loves to write stories about the underdogs and the things they've done to survive. Her newest release, *Ace*, is book 8 of the *Zodiac Dragon Guardians* series and is available on Amazon's Kindle Unlimited.

* * * * *

Q: In your book, *Ace*, you explore Berserkers. What inspired you to write about this?

Kim: In my *Zodiac Dragon* series I've been able to write a number of really cool creatures, dragons, wolves, but these are shifters that hold their animal side within themselves.

I was really excited to be able to write about the animal spirit consuming the human side from the outside in. Also, fierce females who are slightly more terrifying then the men ... what more can you say?

Q: When world building, did you base your story off of known myths throughout history?

Kim: Yes, I read a lot of information about the Norwegian Berserkers and how they were some of the most feared warriors in that time. They lived out in the woods like the bears and the wolves. They believed themselves to be in some of the harshest winters.

They went to every battle dressed in nothing more than an animal's pelt and worked themselves into such a rage that they tore apart the enemy with their bare hands ... gruesome, huh?

Q: What myths or legends inspired you?

"I'm an Aussie girl who grew up in the bush and one day found a book in the library… a book that changed my world, *Bram Stoker's Dracula*. And I've been searching for that magic ever since," said Kim Faulks.

Kim: In my world, shifters are shunned, they're forced to live in the woods and treated like lepers from the mortal world, so I took elements of Vikings and Norwegian warriors as inspiration for this kind of environment. And then I asked myself how would a Berserker be if they were living in isolation, never knowing anything other than survival for their entire life?

And then I turned the question into another one, what if that Berserker was a woman?

Q: What are your favorite paranormal shows, movies, and books?

Kim: I fell in love with *Bram Stoker's Dracula* at a very young age. I think I was 10 when I found the book in the school library and preceded to spend every break I had reading and re-reading. You could say I caught the paranormal bug.

I've read and loved everything from Sookie Stackhouse to Anita Blake, Meridith Gentry. I love fantasy with paranormal elements, urban fantasy, anything that's dark, gruesome, and exciting as hell.

Q: Do you believe in the supernatural?

Kim: I believe. I've always believed that there are things we cannot explain and a lot humans can't comprehend.

Q: Have you ever had a paranormal experience?

Kim: When I was young and living with my parents, we moved from out west in New South Wales in Australia to a place called Byron Bay. It's like chalk and cheese, we left hard, dry, almost inhospitable environment at times to go the beach, the surf, hippies, and eclectic people with their dreadies and smiles. It was a huge shock.

Mum and Dad were looking to build, so we rented my uncle's place just out of the town, high up on a hill. It was so beautiful and green, but the house was haunted.

It was originally a very old school house. When my uncle bought the place, it was old then and came with a few disturbing stories. One of the headmistresses hung herself in one of the rooms, and it seemed when the building was carted away from the original property and placed at its new home in Byron, the ghost of the headmistress came with it.

***Ace* author Kim Faulks loves stories about the underdogs and the things they've done to survive. "I love writing bad guys just as much as the heroes and finding that point of no return. My books are usually hot, action-packed, and always ... always dark," according to Kim.**

She wasn't hostile, but she wasn't happy either. You'd go to bed at night (my room looked out to the crest of the hill behind us), and you'd feel the room grow chilly, and then the mattress would dip beside your feet, as though someone was sitting on the bed next to you.

She would touch you, fill you with a sense of helplessness, fill you with dread ...

But that's not the story I wanted to share with you. The real story is far more terrifying.

It was night ... I think I was 15 at the time. I had a little dog who slept with me; Tess was her name. She was such a lovely dog, one of those little fluffy white ones, with love in her eyes. You couldn't help but adore her. She was always quiet, hardly barked, even when the headmistress' ghost came to visit. But one night she was acting strange, peeing on the floor when she'd never done that before.

She was whimpering and whining. She was running from one end of the house to the other, and when I went to bed she refused to come into my room. I looked, but there was nothing wrong. I even turned on the light to cast the shadows away, but she growled, bared her little white teeth, and wet herself.

I made a bed for her in the laundry, but that didn't work. She started barking and wouldn't stop. I got up when Dad started yelling and picked her up. I carried her into my room, put her in bed with me, and held her tight.

It was a full moon, I remember that so very clearly. I don't think I've ever seen a full moon so bright as I did that night, high up on the hill. I didn't have curtains, didn't want them. I've always loved the low drone, like background noise of the moon, and the darkness of the night.

Tess quietened, burrowing her little face under the covers. I didn't care, just wanted to sleep. I can't remember how long I slept for, but not long I don't think when Tess pushed her head out from under the covers and started growling again. This time she didn't have the same eyes; this time she didn't look like my Tess.

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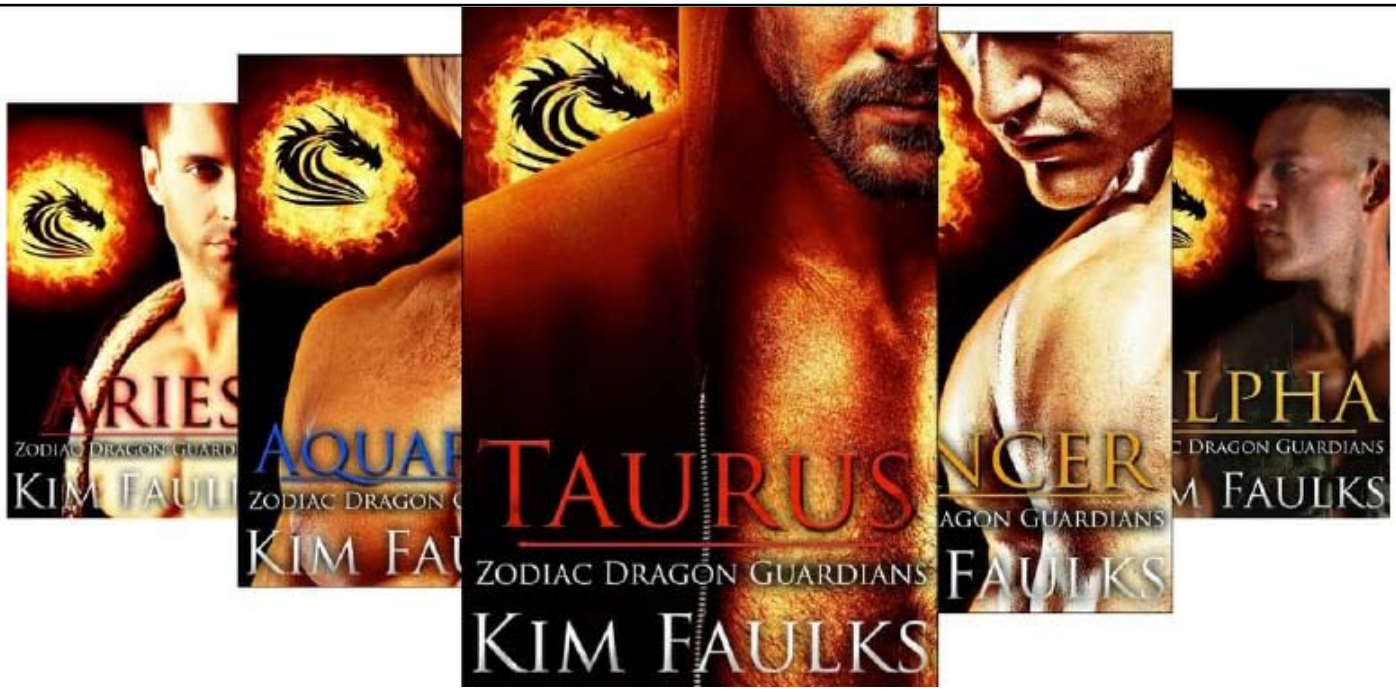


Spittle flew from her mouth when she gnashed her teeth, but she wasn't looking at me; she was looking out the window.

The full moon shone silver, making the thick green grass look almost black from a distance. Lights pulsed in the sky at the crest of the hill, barely 300 meters from my room. They were strange lights, hovering in the sky, pulsing, burning my eyes when I stared at them.

And the longer I stared ,the more frightened I became. It wasn't right. None of it. Not the brightness, not the movement ... not the way the blinding white lights that spun in the sky seemed to focus on this house on the hill, and not the way it seemed to focus on me. I was filled with terror; it didn't just well in the pit of my stomach, it burned itself in there. It was the kind of fear that you weigh all other fears against. I knew they were watching, whoever they were. They would take me. I was sure of it.

I pulled Tess under the covers, and we burrowed down until my legs buckled and curled under me. I closed the sheets over my head as though the cheap 300-ply would somehow protect me. My hands were shaking; my Tess was shaking.

I waited, curled up with the heat of my panicked breaths warming the trapped air, and I prayed. I'd never prayed so damn hard in my life. I prayed and I cried, and I prayed more, until somehow, I don't know when, I finally fell asleep.

I woke with dread the next day and the day after that. I asked Mum to buy me curtains, the darkest blackout curtains she could find. I slept with my back to the window. And even when our new place was built and we moved from that haunted house on the hill, I knew then, and still know today, that one day I'll see those shining lights once again.

Q: What kind of paranormal creatures do you wish you could meet?

Kim: I think I'd love to meet werewolves, and Berserkers, any animal. I think I'd fit in quite well with them. I love the idea of living in the woods, eating what you kill, living within a pack.

Q: What does the future hold for the *Zodiac Dragon Guardians*?

Kim: This series has barely scratched the surface. I've got so many cool stories waiting to be written. *Ace* is the next to release. I know readers will adore my Berserker warrior, Ghost.

The next on my list is a shorter novel with Commander, and then back to the Dragons with Bastian's story, who is a Pisces. This story is intense and journeys to another city, Hells Gate. The last time we saw Bastian he was acting rather strange, sweating, snapping at Lucas, and the others. The Dragon Alpha, Marcus, is worried. Hell, they're all worried. But Bastian's not talking; he's hiding in his room.

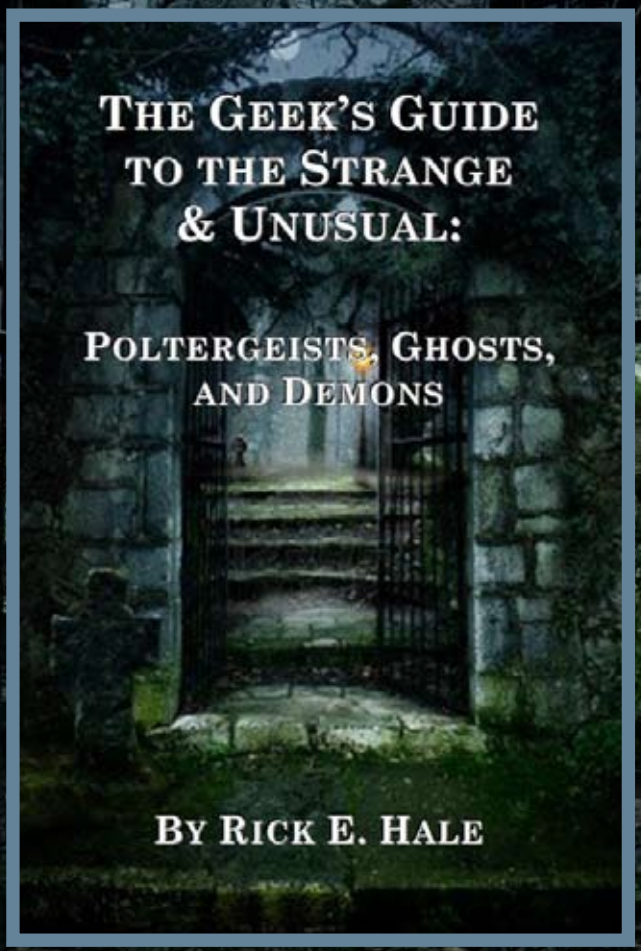
But I have a feeling he is coming out at the end of Commander's; he's almost ready to start his part of the journey — whether he likes it or not.

* * * * *

To learn more about Kim Faulks and her books, visit http://www.hauntingfiction.com/. ◆

The Geek's Guide to the Strange & Unusual: Poltergeists, Ghosts, and Demons

Rick E. Hale's book about unexplainable paranormal phenomena explores many of the world's most intriguing paranormal cases and haunted locations, including the Demon Drummer of Tedworth, Lucedio Abbey, the Dagg poltergeist, and three cases of possession, among many others.



Book Now Available Online at Amazon.com

A NEW THEORY

By J.C. Knight

The following is an excerpt from the book "Ghost Physics: Compelling Evidence for a New Theory." Reprinted with permission.

What is a ghost? There are many theories, but the only one that really makes sense is the one that's supported by scientific facts. Currently, there are five conventional theories, which are covered later in this book. After nearly a year and a half of exhaustive research, I have come up with the newest and what I believe is the most accurate theory of all based on three extremely important scientific and medical findings.

My theory is this: When a person dies, part of their physical brain is converted to pure energy and leaves the body as a conscious singularity. In other words, a "ghost" is a conscious singularity composed of the disembodied consciousness of a deceased person in the form of new massless energy. It is similar to, but as I will explain, much more accurate than the existing theories.

The existing theory I'm referring to specifically is the one which states that ghosts are the spirits of people who have passed away. For thousands of years people have believed this, and it is likely true, but it lacks scientific explanation. What exactly is a spirit? Until now, no one has been able to answer this scientifically, but I believe I can.

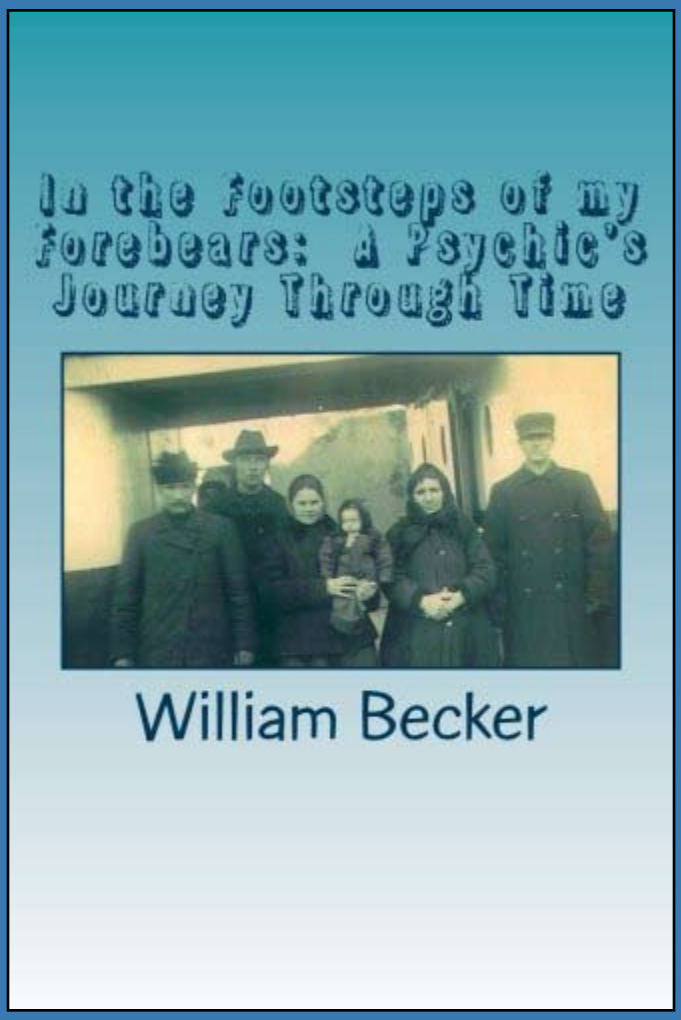
A spirit is the same thing as a ghost, which is also the same thing as a disembodied conscious singularity. In other words, it is the consciousness of a deceased person in the form of massless energy that has left their body. There are three vital scientific facts that support this theory. Two are very recent findings in the field of quantum physics, and the third is a previously unlinked medical research result. It's when you connect the dots of these three facts that it all starts to make sense.

The first supporting fact is the recent discovery by CERN scientists of the Higgs boson particle, also sometimes referred to informally as "the God particle." It is the

While J.C. Knight is a pseudonym, in real life he is a licensed physician and college professor. He's always had an interest in the paranormal.

"For a long time there have been missing links between the paranormal and scientific findings. Recent discoveries in the fields of quantum physics and medicine are now beginning to provide those links to further our understanding. I have written about these in my book *Ghost Physics*," J.C. said.

Find out more about J.C.'s ghost theory by reading his book, *Ghost Physics: Compelling Evidence for a New Theory*.



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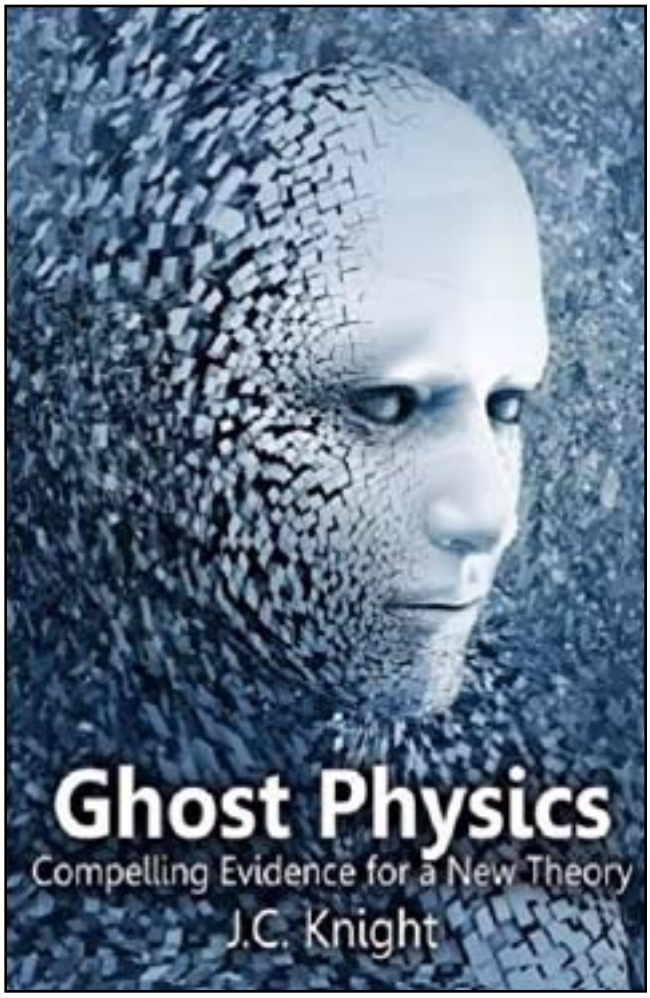

"Real scientific evidence now begins to explain paranormal phenomenon. What is a ghost? For centuries people have asked this question but were unable to answer it due to the lack of available information, until now. The most recent discoveries in the fields of quantum physics and medicine, such as the discovery of the Higgs Boson particle and Orchestrated Objective Reduction in the human brain, are now beginning to provide clues to the answer. This book applies those findings to past medical evidence to form factual links that bridge the gaps in our understanding of the paranormal."

particle responsible for the transfer of matter to energy and vice versa. It is described as a scalar particle force carrier in physics. (In Einstein's equation E=mc2, matter and energy are interchangeable and can neither be created nor destroyed, only transferred). The Higgs is what gives particles their physical mass.

The second is the recent discovery of OOR (Orchestrated Objective Reduction), which measures, for the first time, quantum energy vibrations embodied as helical patterns in the microtubules of the human brain, representing human consciousness. Even more interesting is the fact that this quantum energy was found to have the ability to leave the body by converting from the microtubules to a pattern of pure mass less energy.

Upon this conversion to a pure energy state, a small amount of mass is lost from the body. It is the Higgs boson that transfers part of the microtubule mass from the body back to the Higgs field at the time of death. (The Higgs field is a field discovered in quantum physics that is discussed later in this book).

The third supporting fact of my theory is a set of formally documented medical research findings by a group of five physicians which took place at the turn of the century, a time when very little was known in the field of quantum physics. The lead research physician was a man named Dr. Duncan MacDougall.

Dr. MacDougall theorized that the human soul might have an actual measurable weight. He obtained consent from several terminally ill patients who agreed to participate in the research. For each patient, Dr. MacDougall's group measured an instant loss of approximately 21 grams of weight at the exact moment of death, which, until now could not be explained.

> **"By far, the most gripping event people report is a visible manifestation, of which there are several types."**

At the time, they did not know of the existence of the Higgs boson or its ability to transfer matter. Nor did they have any knowledge of OOR. However, we now know about both of these and can clearly see the connection which explains the loss of 21 grams of mass at the time of a person's death, confirming that something does leave the body instantaneously when a person dies. This gives us new insight into what a ghost is.

Once discorporated from the body, the conscious singularity exists in the form of pure unseen energy. Under the right conditions, however, the Higgs boson particle can temporarily impart a small amount of mass back to the singularity, enabling limited physical properties which result in variable forms of manifestations that we witness as ghosts, or paranormal events.

* * * * *

To read "Ghost Physics: Compelling Evidence for a New Theory" by J.C. Knight, visit https://www.amazon.com/Ghost-Physics-Compelling-Evidence-Theory/dp/0999304011. ◆

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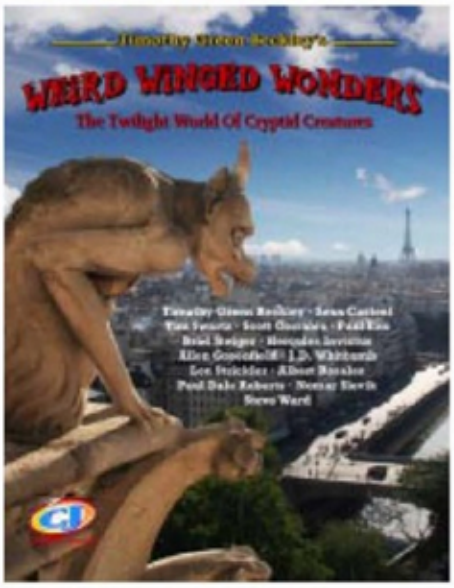

THEY ARE BELIEVED BY MANY TO BE THE AGENTS OF THE "DARK GODS!" - THEIR MASSIVE WINGS, WHEN SPREAD FANLIKE, ARE KNOWN TO CAST A PARALYZING SHADOW OVER THE LAND! THEY EXIST ALONGSIDE US IN THE "REAL WORLD," YET WE KNOW NEXT TO NOTHING ABOUT THEM! THEY APPEAR TO INHABIT PHYSICAL BODIES, BUT THEY COULD BE ARRIVING FROM OTHER DIMENSIONS OR FROM THE MULTIVERSE THROUGH "WINDOWS" OR PORTALS!

They are the Winged Wonders from the Twilight World of Cryptid Creatures.

Living Pterosaurs have been seen from Guantanamo AF Base in Cuba to the jungles of Papua, New Guinea where the locals call them the "Ropa."

They are the Flying Felines of the Egyptian dynasties to the Greek Heroes living in underground caverns on Mount Olympus.

Here is the Mothman Creature, initially seen around the hamlet of Point Pleasant, West Virginia, and associated with the collapse there of the Silver Bridge - but now recently observed by dozens of credible witnesses in downtown Chicago. Some researchers say Mothman is a harbinger of death.

The Jersey Devil is said to be a demon who flies near the Pine Barrens mainly in the dead of night, while the Thunderbirds are massive creatures with wingspans of more than 30 feet.

Dragons are thought of as beings rooted firmly in mythology and the stuff of movies such as "The Hobbit" and popular cable TV shows such as "Game of Thrones." Yet sightings of these aerial demons known to spit fire have been seen worldwide and are part of every culture - past and present - from Europe to the United States, and every continent in between.

Even more eerie are the flying and floating "alien" humanoids and witchy "bruhos" observed widely in Mexico and South America.

Here are dozens of the creepy-crawly narrations - backed up by the strangest of photographed evidence - of bizarre and unknown flying cryptids who frolic in our sky as if they have not a care in the world. Theories abound as to their origin(s) and nature and their overall grip on our perceived reality, as explored in this dramatic work by such respected researchers as Sean Casteel, Brad Steiger, Paul Eno, Allen Greenfield, Lon Strickler, Tim Swartz, Scott Corrales, Hercules Invictus, Jonathon David Whitcomb, Albert Rosales, Paul Dale Roberts, Steve Ward, Nomar Slevik, with the added editorial flare of "Exploring the Bizarre" co-host Tim Beckley.

Are they demons straight from hell or from an unknown shadow world? Ultra-terrestrials who have strayed into "our territory" from another time and space continuum? Or simply prehistoric monsters thought to have died out millions of years ago, but who still exist living just beyond our reach, ready to be rediscovered by science?

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